

# The Trailhead News

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington

March/April 2026



## Rendezvous 2026 April 24-26



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



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Cover Photos: Photos from 2025 Rendezvous. Photos courtesy of Jim Thode

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April 1 .....	May/June
June 1 .....	July/Aug
August 1 .....	Sept/Oct
October 1 .....	Nov/Dec

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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
<b>Lifetime Members</b>		<b>2026 Sustaining Level</b>		Kris Moran.....	GHC
Mitch Baird .....	IND	Sheila & Bud Blakely .....	NEC	Charles Morgan .....	GHC
Scott Bauer .....	CHC	Sherry Brown .....	SCR	Sheila Richards .....	NEC
Amanda Biles .....	TAH	Ron & Marty Celestres .....	TAH	Leonard & Kathy Rolph .....	MAC
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Karen Briskey .....	PCC	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller .....	IND	Michael Torok .....	MVC
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Steven & Carol Crapson .....	CCR	Bruce & Kathy Foreman.....	NEC		
Missy Day .....	TAH	Robert Gish & Gloria Dennison .....	NEC		
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Dave Seibel .....	MOC	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge .....	MAC		
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Teri Starke.....	IND	<b>2026 Contributing Level</b>			
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Barbara Woo .....	CHC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth.....	CHC		
Pat Wyers .....	MAC	Jim & Terri Anderson .....	MSH		
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None		Ken & Patti Carmichael.....	NEC		
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### 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. ↶

  
**In Memoriam**  
**Edward Thomas Haeflinger**  


**E**d lived a large life and the obituary is worth a close read. It was published in Mason County Journal on January 23rd 2026

One cannot forget the many Great Gravel Pack In's that Ed along with DNR and many others orchestrated.

Tons of gravel were brought on to the trails by horse back, mule, quads and wheel barrows. Lunch was provided by Horse Back groups great conversations were help fire side cowboy songs were played as well.

The once mucky trails around McKenny, Mima Falls and the trailhead and others were greatly improved for trail users and the environment. One year the gravel pack in put rock on the motorized trail Waddell basin west

Along with BCHW and other equine organizations the Tacoma Trails, Friends of Capitol Forest, WA ATV, Trail Runners and community members all pitched in.

The memorial was February 1st 2026 1 pm at the South Mason Fire and Rescue Hall 2970 SE Arcadia Rd Shelton WA 98584 🐾



Scan QR to read full Obituary



**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.



**BCHW  
General  
Membership  
Meeting**

By Ken Carmichael,  
BCHW Membership Development

**T**he Back Country Horsemen of Washington will conduct a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at Rendezvous in Ellensburg, Washington. The nature of business will be that which comes before the membership, general announcements and awards. Members are encouraged to attend. For more information about specific topics members may contact President Dana Chambers at [president@bchw.org](mailto:president@bchw.org). 🐾



# Rendezvous 2026 is Getting Closer!

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

There are a couple differences from Rendezvous 2026 and previous Rendezvous. The most important part is the drawing at the end of the auction on Saturday night for a Traeger Pelleted Grill donated by our sponsor at Midstate Ag supply. **The way to be in the drawing for that grill with a retail value of \$1,500.00 is:**

- Buy a dinner ticket for Saturday night catered dinner of Prime Rib. Your dinner ticket package will include your bidder number.
- When you go through the banquet line make sure you hand over your dinner ticket with your bidder number printed on the ticket
- Stay through the live auction!
- Once the live auction concludes, one dinner ticket will be drawn from a bucket, and its holder will win the Traeger Pellet Grill as a prize. You must be present to win.

Preorder 2026 Rendezvous shirts in assorted sizes and colors on the Rendezvous page. There will be a limited amount and range of sizes available for purchase at the 2026 Rendezvous, make sure to place your preorder for gear.



You can find the Used Tack Sale Contract on the Rendezvous page; simply follow the instructions, and you will receive a consigner number. Price and tag your items before dropping off at the sale.

With valid 2026 membership, members are eligible for free line dance lessons and Friday night dancing. Nonmembers may attend; the cost is \$10, or \$5 per person for those under 12 years old. Please consider donating new and gently used equine items for the auctions. Chapters, please let us know if your chapter wants to donate items or funds for Rendezvous.

You may bring your donations for the auction to the first quarter board meeting on March 21st, at KVEC.

**Because the date has shifted, certain vendors are unable to participate in Rendezvous. We are seeking a couple more; vendor forms are available on the Rendezvous page.**

As we continue to update the schedule of events, please note that what appears in the THN may change. For the most current information, check the website. 🐾

For questions or to arrange a demo or class, call 253-709-5052. Teri Starke

## BCHW Membership Announcement

**B**CHW memberships expired on December 31, 2025 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. 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 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

# Stone Soup Ride is Revived

“Let’s revive the Stone Soup Ride!” “We haven’t done that in 10 years.” “OK, who will organize it and get the word out?”



By Paula Keohane,Whidbey Island Trailriders of BCHW

**S**o went a conversation at the November meeting of Whidbey Island Trail Riders of BCHW. Unlike so many “good ideas”, this one took wings. (Or loaded up the horse and saddle if you prefer)

Our newly-elected president Jennifer Roberts said, “yeah, I’ll organize it” The rest of us jumped onboard to plan : who will bring the large outdoor cook pot and burner, who will send out what to bring, Who will check the trails to be sure no down trees who commits to showing up, who will get the word out to the public, who has the stone?

All good: planning in the warmth of good friends, indoors, and with the cold, rainy weather coming up. Is this a good idea? Revive the Stone Soup Ride on January 1st, 2026, in Putney

Woods on Whidbey Island, the morning after all the New Year’s Eve festivities? New Year’s Resolutions aside, how many riders do you think will actually show up?

We press on with the plan, confident that at least six of us will show up, some to set up and mind the soup, some to ride. Even if just us six, it will be fun. So we put the word out on the local horse-related FB page, Whidbey Island Equine Network and press on.

It worked! 18 people, 10 horse trailers showed up to enjoy fine weather, great riding, companionship, terrific food (we got our own stone), and sumptuous ingredients added by some from this person, some from that person. We all agreed, let’s do this again next year. 🐾



# Peninsula Chapter Prize Ride

PHOTO BY HELEN SHEWMAN



PHOTO BY JOAN WILDMAN

By Rick Hamilton, BCHW Peninsula Chapter

**O**n a warm Saturday, this past September, I had the privilege of being part of our Chapter’s yearly fundraiser. My wife Heather and I had been a part of BCH Montana for the best part of 12 years before moving to Sequim last summer. We now belong to the Peninsula Chapter.

BCH became a huge part of our lives. I tell everyone that our former chapter, the now-defunct Upper Clark Fork, helped raise my kids. This is quite true. My daughter, Leah, just completed her term as the Secretary of Mile High BCHM. Leah just graduated from Montana Tech and has made the Olympic Peninsula her home. She almost immediately joined her mom in Chapter business meetings, because that’s where she feels at home. This past August, she was a leader in a youth packing clinic hosted by BCHM. She was presenting “packing” as a 4-H event at the

fair for several years. She learned these skills thanks to all the great chapter members who mentored her in this dying art. Who she would be without this history passed down, I do not know. Because of the diverse ages of the members, she has heard their stories. Their history of BCH and their love of public lands. Their love of all things horses and mules became her passion as well. Their generosity of spirit, which volunteers for the good of the community, can be seen in her. She can relate to members of all ages because they have shown a huge interest in her.

My youngest, Olivia, is in 11th grade. She was serving beans at the Prize Ride. She, too, has grown up at the campfire listening to members play the guitar and sing songs. Swap stories and grow closer. Become family.

When you think of a “Prize Ride,” what do you think of? A trail ride followed by a meal and then a gift drawing? It is certainly all of that. But the “prize to me is so much more. My prize was learning to turn out some award-winning ribs by listening to Kim and Pat. Kim and Pat put in so much effort to get the meals, not only served on time but also memorable. Dutch oven cooking is also one of those lost arts that BCH keeps alive. Some of the recipes were handed down from Kim’s grandma. Watching and listening to these two ladies, it became obvious that this was more than volunteering. This was an act of love.

Another “prize” for me was having an event that I could share with my family. To interact with new friends and build camaraderie and ties with people we have just gotten to know. Not everyone is in their comfort zone when it comes to hosting and interacting. Even so, everyone in the club stepped up and was their absolute best. Some even on crutches! Thank you, Joan!

Another “prize” was hearing the compliments from the riders about the whole event. How great the trail was. Not everyone really understands how that all comes about. How many hours and days are put into it? Not just whacking at brush but thoughtfully considering the feel of the trail and how it will settle into memory

*continued on page 7*

PHOTO BY JOAN WILDMAN



# North Fork Sauk Horse Camp



By Kambria and Waylon Moffitt

The BCHW Traildusters chapter started a project to restore the horse corrals at Sloan Creek Horse Camp at the North Fork Sauk Trailhead in Darrington, Washington. With prodding by Jerry Pearson and others, my husband and I organized a work party for the National Trail days on June 7th to restore the corrals to an exonerate state. We learned that it is well over 10 times as much work to organize a work party as it is to just show up on the day of. Beyond the organization components, the work included replacing a rotten post cemented in the ground, a task that took three strong men the entire day to dig up and replace with a new post. We also had several people spend the day scraping all the lichen off the corrals and re-staining them with wood preservatives, and weed-whacking the horse camp, which made a nice camping spot for the summer. Beth and my nephew weed-whacked the camping area as well.

Many others and I had been concerned about the parking situation and squeezing a horse through the narrow gap of cars, which frequently park outside of designated parking spots and along the skinny road, so Arthur Wright and Marty Barnaby helped me open up over a dozen new parking spaces for cars that would not be in the way of horse trailer access. The Forest Service was also great about installing no-parking signs along the road to improve equestrian accessibility. All I had to do was ask, after helping them with a few things first. The local FS paid packer can now get her 6-horse gooseneck in without an issue.

Hampton Lumber was kind and donated a picnic table to BCHW for the site, a contact my cousin gave me in management, since our family has a long history of working for Hampton Lum-

*continued on page 8*

## Peninsula Chapter Prize Ride

*continued from page 6*

once the riders load up and head home. Theresa described it as a “symphony”. You take some forest, sprinkle in a little clear-cut, add a few roads, and throw in some spectacular views and more forest trails. You put it together, and it really is like a symphony. Stephanie, Julie, Rick King and Heather greeted, directed and registered everyone. Cookies by Donna were a huge hit at the Snack stop hosted by Larry, Helen and Jeff. There were many others involved. It should also be noted that many of those helping out were members of other chapters. BCH is just that way. Sage Horse Camp generously gifted us the use of their great facility, which could not fit our needs any better. I hope everyone prizes all the effort, the big and little things, as well as the many people who put this all together. The generosity of spirit from everyone involved is really the prize, and I hope they know what a prize they are. This is the kind of community we all need, and I am glad to be part of it.

Here’s to next year! Our 2026 Prize Ride will be September 12-13. We hope to see some new faces there to share the fun! 🌿



PHOTO BY HELEN SHEWMAN

## North Fork Sauk Horse Camp

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ber. Jerry Pearson brought his flatbed trailer, which made it really nice to haul the picnic table to the site. In early August, we had another small work party to finish, staining the corrals since we had run out of stain at the June work party. There are two great day riding options from the corrals, including up to Mackinaw shelter and back, which is an 11-mile round-trip ride through old growth cedar, as well as a day ride up to Curry gap and back, which follows an old mining road with Jaw-dropping views of Monte Cristo and Sloan Peak, as well as two very uniquely beautiful waterfalls. There's also a day hike option to Painted Mountain from the TH. For Highcountry riders, there is a labyrinth of trails from this trailhead, offering endless packing opportunities. North Fork Sauk up to White Pass is the widest and most maintained of the trails. With work, other loops could be made from Pilot Ridge and Bald Eagle.

Mid-October, after Waylon and I got back from our wedding, we started hauling puncheon boards up the trail to replace the old ones. We had kept getting emails from FS while on our honeymoon, asking when we were going to haul them. Arthur Wright, Backcountry Crosscut Crew, and PCTA were essential to the project, as a very large boulder in the middle of the trail blocked stock access and appeared right before our scheduled dates to move the puncheon wood. The crew moved the boulder out of the way, fixed the tread, and did five rounds of scouting the road and the trail to make sure it was safe and accessible before we hauled the horses up to the trailhead. Bridget (Bam Bam) with the Darlington Ranger Station was on furlough, but helped us with her own Volunteer hours to weigh and load the wood. Each board

weighed 30-50 lbs. Although we spent all day packing the wood in the containers that the PCTA crew let us borrow, we were only able to move 1/4 of the stacked lumber with our one pack animal.

Two weeks later, Jerry Pearson set me up with Joe Remenar, Rocky Leavitt, and Bill McKenna, who are packers for the Whatcom and Skagit chapters, to haul additional wood. We spent all day moving a good portion of the boards up-trail to where they are needed. Arthur and the Back Country Cross Cut crew were once again essential, especially with the wild time of year, and saved us from a fallen tree that had blocked the road on the drive out. It is common from the end of October through springtime for alder to fall in roadways, so it is good to carry a chainsaw in your truck/trailer this time of year.

For 2026, the goal is to replace the puncheon on the lower section of North Fork Sauk. It is very optimistic that the youth corps will be hired for this project. Supposedly, the reason why this area has such a push by FS and others to be worked on is to restore the PCT west of Glacier Peak for stock access, since it is a very challenging place for Search and Rescue to get in and out of, and there are many such occurrences each year because of the wildness, beauty and ruggedness of the area. The local FS packer commented that this section will need tread work every year if it is going to remain stock accessible in the long term. So I am wondering if it will get the tread/road work every year, or just a couple of years' fix-up for the through hikers and SAR to use the area? We are optimistic about restoring stock access, even though it's been a rough and rugged area for 23 years since the Kennedy slide. 🌱



**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
OF WASHINGTON**

# Rendezvous 2026 April 24-26

**Reservations are NOW OPEN for the  
Catered Dinner and Camping.**

**For more information go to BCHW.org or scan the QR code below**

**clinics                      used tack sale                      vendors**

**catered dinner & auctions**

**Line dance lessons &  
dancing                      general membership mtg  
saw competition**



# Equestrian Helmet Fact Sheet

Safety article from your safety officer, Chuck Regimbal.

**Fact #1:** Between 12 and 15 million persons in the United States ride a horse or pony every year.

**Fact #2:** Approximately 20 percent of horse-related injuries occur on the ground and not while riding.

**Fact #3:** Most riding injuries occur during pleasure riding.

**Fact #4:** The most common reasons among riders for hospital admission and death are head injuries.

**Fact #5:** A fall from two feet (60 cm) can cause permanent brain damage. A horse elevates a rider eight feet (three meters) or more above ground.

**Fact #6:** A human skull can be shattered by an impact of 4-6 mph. Horses can gallop at 40 mph.

**Fact #7:** A rider who had one head injury has a 40 % chance of suffering a second head injury. Children, teens and young adults are most vulnerable to sudden death from second impact syndrome: severe brain swelling as a result of suffering a second head injury before recovery from the first head injury.

**Fact #8:** Death is not the only serious outcome of unprotected head injuries. Those who survive with brain injury may suffer epilepsy, intellectual and memory impairment, and personality changes.

**Fact #9:** Helmets work. Most deaths from head injury can be prevented by wearing ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials), SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) approved helmets that fit correctly and have the chin-strap firmly applied. Other types of helmets, including bike helmets, are inadequate.

**Fact #10:** The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association through the Committee on Sports Medicine, Canadian Medical Association, and the American Medical Equestrian Association recommend that approved, fitted and secured helmets be worn on all rides by all horseback riders.

**Fact #11:** Of all common sports and activities, horseback riding is the #1 cause of head injuries above any other sport. Head injuries are associated with approximately 60% of all equestrian deaths and 18% of equestrian injuries, and only 20% of equestrians wear protective headgear every time they ride.

**Fact #12:** Head injuries are the most common cause of fatality in horse-related injuries. Of all sports in the US, equestrian sports are the most common cause of sports-related traumatic brain injury (TBI) in adults.

Getting on a horse without a helmet is like riding in a car without a seatbelt!

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW? A RIDING HELMET SHOULD...

- Be SEI certified and meet the ASTM F1163-15 standard. This will be indicated by a permanently attached label on the inside shell. Not all helmets meet these standards.
- It should be worn at all times while mounted.
- Fit as snugly as you can comfortably wear it. The chin strap must touch the rider's jaw and/or chin.



## CHOOSE A RIDING HELMET THAT...

- It is appropriate for your riding style.
- Stays on your head when the chin strap is fastened, without moving around.
- While the helmet is secured, try moving it front to back and side to side on the scalp.
- Should move with the helmet, indicating a correct fit.

## FOR SAFETY...

- Always ride with your helmet securely fastened.
- Immediately replace any helmet that has a damaged harness or has been involved in a serious impact. Damage to the shock-absorbing inner layer may decrease the effectiveness of the helmet. This may not always be detected with the naked eye. 🐾

~ Article courtesy of Montana State University and James B. Wilson.

*The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Montana State University and the Montana State University Extension prohibit discrimination in all of their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital and family status. Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cody Stone, Director of Extension.*

# Rendezvous Schedule - Friday, April 24th

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BLDG # ON KVEC MAP	BLDG 9	BETWEEN BLDG 9 AND 10	BLDG 10	BLDG 11	BLDG 12				
TIME (½ hr) BLDGS	TEANAWAY	CONCESSIONS	UMTANUM	MANASTASH	HERITAGE	TANEUM			
8:00-8:30am		CONCESSIONS in the Kitchen between the Teanaway & Umtaneum 8am-3pm			SOLID GROUNDS COFFEE - Limited Menu 6am-9am				
8:30-9:00Aam									
9:00-9:30am	ABCs OF TRAIL RIDING - Robert Eversole 9am-11am			VENDORS, BUCKET & SILENT AUCTIONS, ALL AUCTION DONATIONS & SET UP	BCHW STORE AND VENDORS - 9AM-4PM				
9:30-10:00am									
10:00-10:30am								FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & WHEN TO USE IN YOUR LQ - Varney	
10:30-11:00am									
11:00-11:30am									
11:30-12:00pm								TESTING YOUR HAY - Nick Winfrey 11:30am-12:30pm	NOXIOUS WEED - Marc Eylar
12:00-12:30pm	LIVE AUCTION - Starts at 7pm Saturday								
12:30-1:00pm								TRAIL MAPPING - Brenda Nass	
1:00-1:30pm									
1:30-2:00pm	CHAPTER DISPLAYS - All Day								
2:00-2:30pm									FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & WHEN TO USE IN YOUR LQ - Varney
2:30-3:00pm								BACK COUNTRY EQUINE FIRST AID - Amber Palmer	
3:00-3:30pm									
3:30-4:00pm									
4:00-4:30pm									
4:30-5:00pm									
5:00-5:30pm	POTLUCK DINNER								
5:30-6:00pm									
6:00-7:00pm									
7:00pm-12:00am									

schedule is subject to change

# Rendezvous Schedule - Friday, April 24th

continued from page 10

BLDG # ON KVEC MAP	BLDG 13	GAZEBO IS BLDG 2	ON EASTSIDE OF BLDG 4	BLDG 4	BLDG 6	BLDG 1
TIME (½ hr) BLDGS	NANEUM	GRASSY AREA BY GAZEBO	BLOOM ANNEX	BLOOM PAVILION	DRAFT HORSE BARN	ARMORY
8:00-8:30am						
8:30-9:00Aam						
9:00-9:30am						
9:30-10:00am						
10:00-10:30am	COLLABERATION W/ OUR PARTNERS - Tony Karniss	CROSSCUT SAW COMPETITION - Wenas Chapter 10am-4pm		TRUCK & TRAILER COMPETITION	BCHW TACK SALE 9am-4pm	
10:30-11:00am						
11:00-11:30am						
11:30-12:00pm						
12:00-12:30pm		To the East of the Saw competition we have the PACKING COMPETITION				
12:30-1:00pm			SADDLE BUILDING DEMO - Dave Morrison	WINNER CIRCLE COACHING - Jennifer Malocha		
1:00-1:30pm			SET UP FOR SATURDAY	TRUCK & TRAILER RODEO COMPETITION		
1:30-2:00pm						
2:00-2:30pm						
2:30-3:00pm						
3:00-3:30pm						
3:30-4:00pm						
4:00-4:30pm						
4:30-5:00pm						
5:00-5:30pm						
5:30-6:00pm						
6:00-7:00pm						
7:00pm-12:00am						MOONSHINE LINE DANCING - learn to line dance with Jesse, Dominic and Sarah 7pm-12am

# Rendezvous Schedule - Saturday, April 25th

continued from page 11

BLDG # ON KVEC MAP	BLDG 9	BETWEEN BLDG 9 & 10	BLDG 10	OUTSIDE ON EASTSIDE OF BLDG 10	BLDG 11	BLDG 12	BLDG 13	BLDG 14				
TIME (½ hr) BLDGS	TEANAWAY	CONCESSIONS	UMPTANUM	UMTANUM OVERHANG	MANASHTASH	HERITAGE	NANEUM	TANEUM				
8:00-8:30am		CONCESSIONS in the Kitchen between the Teanaway and Umtaneum & Tent Outside the Teanaway 8am-3pm				SOLID GROUNDS COFFEE - Limited Menu 6am-9am						
8:30-9:00am												
9:00-9:30am	RIDING WITH CONFIDENCE - Robert Eversole			VENDORS, BUCKET & SILENT AUCTIONS, ALL AUCTION DONATIONS & SET UP BUCKET AUCTION CLOSSES AT 4pm SILENT AT 5pm		BCHW STORE & VENDORS 9am-4pm						
9:30-10:00am												
10:00-10:30am												
10:30-11:00am									BACK COUNTRY EQUINE FIRST AID - Amber Palmer	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & WHEN TO USE IN YOUR LQ - Varney	SAW PROGRAM UPDATE	
11:00-11:30am												
11:30-12:00pm										GUITAR 101 - Barb Penniston		HELL HATS - Beth Hill
12:00-12:30pm	BUCKET AUCTION - Closes at 4PM SILENT AUCTION Closes at - 5pm											
12:30-1:00pm										TRAIL MAPPING - Brenda Nass		
1:00-1:30pm												
1:30-2:00pm	DESSERT DASH - Dessert drop-off											
2:00-2:30pm												
2:30-3:00pm										BCHW4-H TRAIL RIDING PROJECT - Carole Shuh	FIRE EXTINGUISHERS & WHEN TO USE IN YOUR LQ - Varney	
3:00-3:30pm	CHAPTER TABLE ASSIGNMENT & DECORATING											
3:30-4:00pm												
4:00-4:30pm	HAPPY HOUR											
4:30-5:00pm												
5:00-5:30pm												
5:30-6:00pm	CATERED DINNER & LIVE AUCTION											
6:00-6:30pm												
6:30-7:00pm												
7:00-7:30pm												
7:30-8:00pm												
8:00-8:30pm												
8:30-9:00pm												
9:00-9:30pm												
9:30-10:00pm												

schedule is subject to change

# Rendezvous Schedule - Saturday, April 25th

continued from page 12

BLDG # ON KVEC MAP	GAZEBO IS BLDG 2		BLDG 5	ON EASTSIDE OF BLDG 8	BLDG 4	BLDG 6			
TIME (½ hr) BLDGS	GRASSY AREA BY GAZEBO	GRASSY AREA IN FRONT OF BLOOM	SWINE & CATTLE BARN	SIDE OF BLOOM - ANNEX	BLOOM PAVILION	DRAFT HORSE BARN	AMORY A	AMORY C	
8:00-8:30am									
8:30-9:00am									
9:00-9:30am		DOES THE SHOE FIT? - Clyde Lyman 9am-11pm	EQUINE MASSAGE- Brandy Crawford		TRUCK & TRACTOR COMPETITION	BCHW USED TACK SALE - 9am-4pm			
9:30-10:00am									
10:00-10:30am	CROSSCUT SAW COMPETITION - Wenas Chapter 10am-4pm  To the East of the Saw competition we have the PACKING COMPETITION			PACKING FOR BEGINNERS					
10:30-11:00am									
11:00-11:30am				BEGINNER PACKING - Darrell Wasilace	HOW TO SET UP A HIGHLINE				
11:30-12:00pm					HOW TO HOBBLE YOUR HORSE OR MULE				
12:00-12:30pm									
12:30-1:00pm					HACKS & HINTS ON TIRE CHANGING				
1:00-1:30pm			PACING COMPETITION	SADDLE BUILDING DEMO- Dave Morrison	EMERGENCY GEAR FOR BACKCOUNTRY RIDING	WINNER CIRCLE COACHING- Jennifer Malocha			
1:30-2:00pm									
2:00-2:30pm					HOW TO SET UP TEMP FENCING	TRUCK & TRAILOR/RODEO COMPETITION			
2:30-3:00pm					HOW TO START AN EMERGENCY FIRE				
3:00-3:30pm									
3:30-4:00pm									
4:00-4:30pm									
4:30-5:00pm									
5:00-5:30pm									
5:30-6:00pm									
6:00-6:30pm									
6:30-7:00pm									
7:00-7:30pm									
7:30-8:00pm									
8:00-8:30pm									
8:30-9:00pm									
9:00-9:30pm									
9:30-10:00pm									

schedule is subject to change

# Rendezvous Schedule – Sunday, April 24th

continued from page 13

BLDG # ON KVEC MAP			Classroom 50	BLDG 6
TIME (¼ hr) BLDGS	TEANAWAY	CONCESSIONS	HERITAGE	DRAFT HORSE BARN
9:00am			COWBOY CHURCH	USED TACK SALE
9:30am				
10:00am	AWARDS & GENERAL MEETING	CONCESSION in the Kitchen between the Teanaway and Umtaneum 9am-12:00pm		
10:30am				
11:00am				
11:30am				
12:00 NOON				

schedule is subject to change

**Rendezvous 2026 April 24-26**  
**Thank You Sponsors!**

Logos: Back Country Horsemen of Washington, WaFd Bank, MidState Co-op (Farm Supply & Equipment, Irrigation, Fertilizer, Fuel & Propane), Luft TRAILER SALES.

## BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

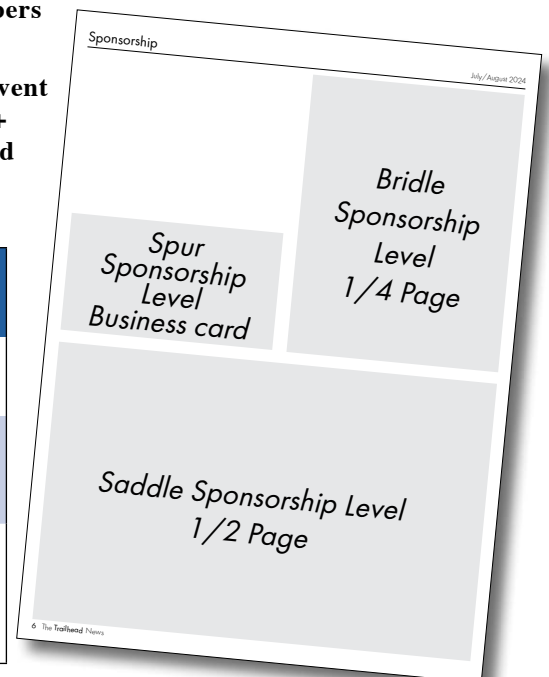
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

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

# Rendezvous 2026 Demos, Classes and Competitions

## Cowboy guitar 101 – Barb Penniston & Mike Walcker

Learn some easy cowboy songs for around the campfire. This is a beginner's class for those who don't know anything about guitar playing. You will learn tuning, basic & easy chords, and strumming techniques. Bring your own guitar, please.

**Saturday – 11:00 am-12:30 pm, Heritage Room**

## Fire Extinguishers & When to Use in Your LQ – Roy Varney

Lt. Roy Varney will explain and demonstrate the proper use of fire extinguishers, especially with regard to fires on vehicles and LQ trailers.

**Friday – 10:00 am-11:00 am | Saturday – 2:00pm-3:00pm, Taneum Room**

## Packing for Beginners – Darrell Wallace

Interested in going on a pack trip but don't know how? We want to encourage you to go packing! Darrell will demonstrate a number of recreational packing options for beginners. Discussion of risks, advantages and disadvantages of each packing technique, and Do's and Don'ts. This will not involve livestock, just barrel stands, pack saddles, and packing gear. Darrell Wallace.

**Saturday – 11:00 am-12:30 pm, Cattle & Swine barn**

## Backcountry Guide to Equine First Aid –

An engaging, theory-based presentation created for Backcountry Horsemen who want to be better prepared when things go wrong far from help. This session covers smart trip planning, communication strategies, and how to recognize and respond to common injuries and illnesses in remote settings. Packed with practical, real-world insight, it delivers essential “must-know before you go” knowledge for safer and more confident backcountry travel. Riders who want to build hands-on skills can continue their training in the full-day course, where these concepts are put into practice through guided, scenario-based instruction. To learn more, check out [www.steepridgetrails.com](http://www.steepridgetrails.com).

**Friday – 2:00 pm-4:00 pm | Saturday – 10:00 am-12:00 am, Heritage room**

## Dave Morrison Saddle Fitting Proper Saddle Fitting & Building – Dave Morrison

Morrison Custom Fit Saddles, is based on providing saddles that are lightweight and built on trees that are custom fit to the backs of horses and mules that are experiencing saddle fit problems. My demos will use the Dennis Lane Back Profiling System to measure the animal and build a tree that conforms to its back, regardless of its size or conformation. I will outline some common behavioral and performance problems associated with poorly fitting saddles.

**Friday – 1:00 pm-2:00 pm, Cattle Barn  
Saturday – 1:00 pm-2:00 pm, Bloom Pavilion**

## Horse Massage – Brandy Crawford

Brandy has always been star-struck by horses. At a young age, she began riding horses for pleasure and later competed in the performance arena. Throughout her life, she has been an avid horse rider, even when stationed overseas. After retiring from a military career, she chose to give back to the horses and became an equine massage therapist. There she finds her passion in life and her “happy place”. Massaging horses is a unique gift that can be performed by a compassionate individual.

As a graduate of Langley Equine Studies, Soap Lake, WA. Brandy is nationally certified in equine (large-animal) massage through NBCAAM (National Board for Certification in Animal Acupressure and Massage). She is licensed by the Washington State Department of Health and insured through the Hands-on Trade Association.

Brandy offers a holistic massage experience for your equine. The benefits of massage may include increased flexibility, improved muscle recovery, injury prevention, reduced stiffness, and greater overall comfort. Ask about her additional services offered, such as equine kinesiology taping.

Please have the horse clean, dry, and groomed prior to making an appointment.

**Saturday – 9:00 am-10:00 am, Cattle Barn**

## Horses as Healers: Expanding the Role of the Horse – Jennifer Malocha

Equine-assisted work is often associated with therapeutic riding programs—but the impact of horses extends far beyond that model. In this live demonstration, Jennifer Malocha will showcase how horses facilitate emotional regulation, trauma recovery, leadership development, and personal growth across a wide range of populations, including veterans, first responders, executives, and individuals navigating life transitions. Working alongside a horse, Jennifer will demonstrate how horses instinctively respond to what is happening inside a person—not what they are trying to project. As the interaction unfolds, the horse's behavior reflects changes in focus, confidence, and internal steadiness, offering clear insight without force, interpretation, or theatrics. Attendees will see firsthand how this dynamic creates meaningful impact across diverse populations and why a horse's contribution extends far beyond its usefulness under saddle.

### About the Presenter:

Jennifer Malocha is an equine-assisted facilitator and educator with over 15 years of horsemanship study, including advanced training in trauma-informed practices and experiential learning models. She partners with horses to support personal development and leadership growth through groundwork-based interaction.

**Friday and Saturday – 1:00 pm-2:00 pm, Bloom Pavilion**

## Rendezvous 2026 Demos, Classes and Competitions

continued from page 15

### Creating a Hellhat – Beth Ferris

A lot more riders are wearing helmets these days. Some have chosen to fix them up to look a little more Western. This became known as “Hellhats.” We’ll start with your favorite helmet, add a brim and decorate. The original Hellhats started with a palm or straw-type cowboy hat. The crown was cut off and attached to the helmet. Currently, several manufacturers offer premade brims that are easy to attach to the helmet. People who are serious about building their own custom Hellhat need to contact me before the rendezvous. I will send you more information about purchasing the hat or brim to build your Hellhat. I will also send you some ideas to help you with your creative work. I will have scissors and other cutting tools available, along with several glue guns. I will have some decorative trim available. I encourage people to go to their local craft store to pick up items they like

Everyone is welcome to observe what we are doing. If you plan to build your own custom Hellhat, please contact me, Beth Ferris, at 425-327-4881 or [highcountryrider@hotmail.com](mailto:highcountryrider@hotmail.com).

**Saturday – 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Taneum Room**

### Adventure Awaits: Riding with Confidence When the Trail Gets Real – Robert Eversole

Feeling nervous before a ride doesn’t mean you shouldn’t go—it means you care. This engaging session explains why anxiety occurs, how it can improve judgment, and simple tools for staying calm, prepared, and confident in the backcountry. Leave with skills you can use on your very next ride.

**Saturday – 9:00 am-11:00 am, Teenaway Room**

### The ABCs of Trail Riding – Robert Eversole

Trail Riders and horse campers of all types will enjoy this primer on the whys and hows of trail riding. Each letter of the alphabet will start another discussion, and we’ll ride the trail from Advocacy to Knots to Xenophon and more.

**Friday – 9:00 am-11:00 am, Teenaway Room**

### Hay Testing, why & how to read the report – Nick Winfrey

**Hay is tested for a variety of reasons, to assess:**

- 1. Nutritional Value:** Different hay types have varying nutritional contents. By testing, you ensure your livestock receive the right balance of nutrients, promoting health and productivity.
- 2. Quality Control:** Testing can identify any contaminants or toxins in the hay, such as mold, dust, or harmful plants, that could harm your animals.
- 3. Cost-Effectiveness:** Knowing the exact nutrient content of your hay can help you balance your feed rations more precisely, potentially reducing the need for expensive supplements.

**4. Production Monitoring:** Regular testing helps track the quality of hay over time, allowing for adjustments in cultivation and harvesting practices to improve future yields.

**5. Animal Health:** Proper nutrition is critical for preventing illnesses and maintaining overall animal health, which leads to better performance and longevity of livestock.

**Friday – 11:30 am-12:30 pm, Heritage Room**

### Trail Warriors Young Trail Rider Project – Carole Shuh

The sad truth is... BCH is aging out.

- How do you change that?
- How do you start a youth program?
- How do you reach out to the young riders in your area?

Trail Warriors is a successful two-year-old collaboration between BCHW and 4-H.

Come and find out more at this informative workshop.

**Saturday – 2:00 pm-3:00 pm, Heritage Room**

### Trail Mapping – Brenda Nass

**Part 1** of the trail mapping class will teach you how to use either Gaia or Avenza mobile apps for offline backcountry navigation as a tool to help keep you safe on the trails. You’ll learn about app differences and costs, and how to import and use detailed maps from the USGS, National Geographic, and the US Forest Service for GPS navigation without cell service. Features include recording tracks, measuring distances, taking waypoints, adding pictures, and exporting tracks.

**Part 2** will introduce you to Niki Curnell’s TRAIL CATALOG, where you can discover and share trails submitted by other equestrians. Niki is a registered veterinary technician, an equine bodyworker, and a wilderness first aid/CPR-certified provider. She teaches ultralight horse packing throughout the Pacific Northwest and is expanding throughout the West Coast in the summer of 2026. She will show us how to upload and share our recorded routes as another way to help preserve and maintain our horse trails, in addition to using loppers and chainsaws!

**Friday – 12:00 pm-2:00 pm | Saturday – 11:30 am-2:00 pm, Heritage Room**

### Does the Shoe Fit? – Clyde Lyman & other local CJF farriers

Farriers with the Farriers Association of Washington State will be shoeing a horse using handmade shoes. Learn about shoe selection, the use of clips, traction devices and other modifications farriers use to keep your horse sound in different environments. Hiring a qualified farrier is your best bet to keep your horses safe and sound on the trail this season. Grassy area in front of the Bloom

**Saturday – 9:00 am-11:00 am, Grassy area in front of Bloom** 🐾

# Demos & Classes In The Bloom Annex

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH, 2026

**KNOTS TO KNOW FOR PACKING AND HIGHLINING** – Hands-on class. Every participant will have a rope and written instructions. Demo of each knot and assistance in learning to tie each knot. Bloom Annex

**EMERGENCY GEAR FOR BACKCOUNTRY RIDING** – Learning what gear to carry and how to use it when riding in the back country. Basic necessities to carry in case of emergencies. Demo of gear with Explanations.

**HOW TO CHANGE A TRUCK OR TRAILER TIRE** – What happens when you have a flat tire out in the middle of nowhere without cell service? We will show you some tips and tricks to change those heavy pickup or Living Quarter tires.

**PACKING FOR BEGINNERS** – Want to get off the trails more traveled for a day or multi-day camp/ride? We will show you the fundamentals of packing the gear you need to spend the night farther into the backcountry.

**SETTING UP A HIGHLINE** – Have you been restricted to camps that have corrals, and you hope they aren't full? We will show you how to set up a high line so that you have more flexibility to travel to new areas.

**HOBBLE TRAINING** – Do you now have to hold your horse's lead line to let them munch a bunch of grass because you are afraid they will wander off? We will show you the steps to hobble train your horse so that both horse and rider can relax after a nice ride.

**SETTING UP TEMPORARY FENCING** – Ever get to a campground that is full and no spare corrals to put your horse in? We will show you how to quickly and easily set up temporary fencing to keep your equine safe and in camp.

**HACKS FOR CAMPING IN A BUMPER PULL TRAILER** – Not ready to go into debt purchasing a camper or Living Quarter trailer? We can show you how to set up the back of your trailer like a studio apartment with all the comforts of home.

**OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS** – Nothing will spoil a nice vacation like being pulled over and asked for proper paperwork for your equines. We will review what and where to check for the documents needed to haul your equines out of state.

**HOW TO START AN EMERGENCY CAMPFIRE** – The weather changes suddenly where you are riding, and you can't get back to camp. How are you going to keep warm? We will teach you what to have in your saddle bag and how to make use of this equipment to start your own fire. 🏠



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

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington Annual Rendezvous

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# Used Tack Sale

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Used Tack ~ Vendor Booths ~ Free Classes & Demonstrations

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**Mark Your Calendars for Kittitas County's Largest Used Tack Sale!**

**April 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Friday & Saturday 9 am-4 pm**

**& Sunday 9 am-12 am for sales and tack pick-up.**

Kittitas Valley Event Center at the Ellensburg Fairgrounds  
512 N Poplar, Ellensburg, WA

**In addition to the sale, browse vendor booths offering special show prices**



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** While you're there, come learn more about the Back Country Horsemen of Washington and attend free demos and classes. **ALL TACK MUST BE CLEAN AND TAGGED WITH CONSIGNOR NUMBER AND PRICE. PHONE NUMBERS MAY BE PUT ON SADDLES IF OFFERS WILL BE CONSIDERED. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT TACK THAT IS NOT PROPERLY TAGGED!** This is a consignment sale, so we will take care of selling it for you and keep 17-22% of the sale price as part of our fundraising effort. Please see consignment contract at [BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org)

**Tack sale info, contact Linda Riley**

**Text or call me 360-421-0992 (preferred)**

**[rosie1400@yahoo.com](mailto:rosie1400@yahoo.com)**

**More info about all  
Rendezvous activities at  
[BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org)**



# **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Annual Rendezvous**

## **PACKING COMPETITION**

**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> 12:30 TO 3:30**

**All levels come try your hand at Packing! Classes for every level!**

**\* Beginner\***

**\*Intermediate\***

**\*Advanced\***

## **Prizes Awarded for all levels!**

Pick your prize in ascending order from a wide variety of items for your next pack trip!





## Content Deadline for the May/June 2026 Digital Newsletter is April 1, 2026

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!**

# 2026 Rendezvous Vendors Information

**There are still vendor spaces available!** It isn't too late to sign up!

Go to [bchw.org](http://bchw.org) for information!

## VIPS MAGNETIC JEWELRY –

We design and sell magnetic necklaces, bracelets anklets, eye glass bead holders errings and kids black obsidian necklaces.

## WILDRAGS –

Wild Rags- scarves

## VALLEY CACTUS –

Valley Cactus is a Western Boho Boutique that celebrates timeless style, affordability, and confidence. Our curated collection features a variety of women's apparel and accessories, including custom-designed graphic tees, cozy crewnecks, stylish jacket, dresses, denim, belts, blankets, and more. We also offer handcrafted items like custom leather-burned claw clips, faux turquoise jewelry, and embroidered hats.

## DAVE MORRISON SADDLE FITTING - Proper Saddle Fitting And Building, Dave Morrison –

Morrison Custom Fit Saddles, is based on providing saddles that are lightweight and built on trees that are custom fit to the backs of horses and mules that are experiencing saddle fit problems. My demos will use the Dennis Lane Back Profiling System to measure the animal to get a tree built that conforms to its back, no matter it's size or conformation. I will outline some common behavioral and performance problems associated with poor fitting saddles.

## TWO BLAZES ARTWORK –

Western Novels and Prints of Authors Artwork, accepts commissions of artwork

## ALPACAS @ DREAM CATHERS FARM –

Alpaca fiber products, hats, headbands, scarves, gloves, socks, insoles, yarn

## PANATTONI LEATHER & EQUINE LAUNDRY–

Saddles, tack, chinks, all leather goods, custom shop

## PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION –

The PCTA (North 350 Blades Chapter) stewards the northern 350 miles of the PCT. We host single and multi-day trail maintenance trips for volunteers of all skill levels.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Provide information on recreational opportunities in the Kittitas/Yakima County areas on DNR land

## RODEO CITY EQUINE –

We are the local horse rescue for Kittitas County, located in Ellensburg. Our mission is to foster safe, sound usable equines that still have quality of life. We rehabilitate and adopt animals into quality lifetime homes.

## BSC LEATHER GOODS –

We are a husband-and-wife team who love good leather goods. We work in small batches, typically crafting 4-10 pieces at a time. Wallets, sheathes and holsters, belts, totes and bags, or any other leather product. We do customer orders and repairs as well.

## H & H CREATIONS –

Hand crafted leather goods. Wallets, belts, cases and covers, bags, purses, clutches, equine and canine tack, jewelry, home goods, coasters, knife sheathes and holsters, key chains, bookmarks and much more.

## MARIE SWEET & TREATS JMD–

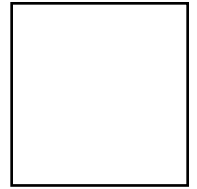
Treats--Horse, cow themed pictures on barn wood and branded pillows

## LOCAL NOMAD CO. –

Hand burned hats, purses, wallets and shoes 🐾



The Trailhead News BCHW  
P.O. Box 1132  
Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## 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).

### Grays Harbor Fund Ride

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Shafer Grade in Matlock

8:00 am-5:00 pm

Long and short routes. Child and novice rider friendly.

Food available for purchase. Prizes and raffle offered.

Please no stallions or dogs on the trail.

Contact Beth Brenshaw 360-581-6535

### 2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2026

9:00 am, 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

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

Saturday, September 19, 2026

9:00 am, 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

### 2026 Rendezvous

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26, 2026

Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg, WA

[treasurer@bchw.org](mailto:treasurer@bchw.org)

### 25th Annual Winery Ride & Halloween Costume Contest

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Zillah, WA

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

for Sign-up and additional information, visit:

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

## Free Entrance Days in the

## National Parks

**May 25:** Memorial Day

**June 14:** Flag Day/President Trump's birthday

**July 3-5:** Independence Day weekend

**August 25:** 110th Birthday of the National Park Service

**September 17:** Constitution Day

**October 27:** Theodore Roosevelt's birthday

**November 11:** Veterans Day

