

The Trailhead News

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington

May/June 2023



www.bchw.org

BCHW Chapter Locations & Directors

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Director: Sue Davis	10214 Gate Rd SW • Olympia, WA 98512		capitolriders22@gmail.com
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Chapter Directors: This list is taken from the
BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

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

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

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



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. ↻



President's Corner



What an Awesome Rendezvous 2023!!

By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

If you did not attend, you missed a great weekend! The weather was beautiful, the tack sale was huge, and the socializing was amazing and fun. We are already working on Rendezvous 2024, so stay tuned!

I want everyone to understand that this event is one of two Statewide fundraisers we hold every year. As with most everything these days, costs have gone up on food and the cost to rent the event enter as well. We do our best to put on a great weekend for everyone. Volunteers do a lot of hard work, and I think we should thank them! It takes a village to put on these big events, and we could use more volunteers. So, if anyone is interested in joining the team for Rendezvous and/or the Winery Ride, please let us know!!

We do our best to keep all our members informed of what is happening within the organization. We use the state Facebook page, emails, your Chapter Leadership, and the

state website. If you are not getting the emails from the state, please let us know so we can figure out why.

I congratulate all our amazing volunteers who received an award at the annual Membership Meeting. Photos and write-ups are in this edition, so take a look.

Speaking of volunteers, I am asking that all of you who work out on the trails, those who volunteer their time holding leadership positions, and those who help with events, etc., please complete and turn in your volunteer hours. It may not seem important to you, but it is. They are very impressed when we show our partners, collaborators, and elected officials how much time and equivalent dollars we spend volunteering! So, get a form from your chapter leadership or off the State website, fill it out monthly, and turn them into

continued on page 4

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Your Leadership Quote of the Month



"Leaders become great not because of their power but, because of their ability to empower others."

~ John Maxwell



Volunteering with Passion

By Ken Carmichael

Volunteering is a way of serving your community. There are excellent opportunities in Washington to volunteer.

To actively volunteer is to provide a service. This means rendering assistance, helping, to be of use, to contribute and to promote.

Our communities need volunteers with **PASSION**. This starts with thinking about what lights your fire. What are you passionate about? Who or what needs your help? Then evaluate your experience, talents, skills and abilities combined with your time commitment.

Some people run for public office, others join boards of non-profit organizations and others volunteer to be there when they are needed most.

I read an article once that provided the key motivation factors in volunteering. They are:

- To help others
- To be involved in their community
- To contribute to a cause
- To develop new skills and have new experiences
- To use their skills in a productive way
- To stay mentally and physically fit

I will add another and that is the social aspect of being around others with common interests.

Volunteering can be very rewarding with a feeling of personal satisfaction. A good example of all these benefits of volunteering is being around other equestrians. BCHW meets all of these criteria. Just ask any BCHW member after a work party or other volunteer activity.

I do not have the statistics about the amount of work done by volunteers or the number of people involved throughout Wash-

ington but I know from experience that these individuals make a difference in our communities.

One thing about volunteering is that you get to choose what, when, where and how you work and with whom. Typically, people choose those activities based on previous interests.

My interests gravitate towards the boat and horses. Being a trail rider, I am interested in keeping trails open on our public lands. **BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON** does this with 30 chapters spread across the state. In Spokane, I belong to the Ponderosa chapter (PBCH) where we primarily work with the county, State Parks and Bureau of Land Management. PBCH provides the opportunity for education, advocacy and helping on the ground with trailheads and trails. And those that actively participate have lots of fun doing it.

Take the first step and contact an organization where you can express your passion. The four I am proud of being associated with include: Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen keeping trails open, Riverside State Park Foundation and Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park supporting our great park system and Lake Spokane Association helping to preserve a beautiful lake.

If you have ever considered contributing to your community through volunteering, then this is a good time to get started. I encourage everyone to find some way to volunteer in your interests. Make it a priority. You can do it as an individual or as a family. Of course, I encourage everyone to volunteer through BCHW and the many chapters. Choose an area where you are passionate and make a difference in your life and someone else's.

Bottom line, volunteer to make our communities better and find a fit that is **FUN** for you. 🐾

President's Corner

continued from page 3

your chapter volunteer hours coordinator, your regional coordinator, or the State Volunteer Hours Chair. It really is important!

Lastly, our Pasayten Wilderness Project (PWP) kicks off on June 10th in the Pasayten Wilderness. If you want to

get involved in all aspects of this huge endeavor, please contact us at pasaytenproject@bchw.org. Also, keep an eye on the PWP webpage for more information.

Please have a great Spring, and I hope to see you at one of the chapter or regional work parties or on the trails!! 🐾

Spring is Tick Season

By Sue Davis

With as much time as we BCHW'ers spend in the back country riding and maintaining trails, sooner or later we are bound to encounter ticks, either on us or our critters. While finding a tick crawling up your pant leg or burrowed into your horse's chest can be alarming, with a little know-how, they are easily dispatched. Fortunately for us Washingtonians, there are only a few cases of tick-borne illnesses reported each year in our state.

First things first, To remove a tick that has attached to the skin and started feeding, a tick removal spoon, called "Ticked Off", is a very reliable tool (photo right). It gets the whole tick out without breaking off the head. Scrape the spoon along the skin, catching the tick in the slot, until it pulls out. I have used this to remove many ticks on my dog and horses. There are several similar tick removal devices on the market. Washington Department of Health (WDOH) advises using a tweezer, grasping the tick at skin level and pulling straight up, although I have had little success removing a tick intact with tweezers. After removing a tick, swab the bite site with alcohol or wash with soap and water.

To remove ticks on a dog before they attach, a flea comb works great (see picture to the right). Comb through the fur, especially the head area. Drop ticks into a little alcohol to kill them.

To prevent getting ticks, WDOH recommends using insect repellent containing DEET on yourself and wear clothing treated with permethrin. My vet recommended using fly spray containing permethrin on horses to repel ticks. I have also had success using a natural spray on my animals and my clothing that contains cinnamon, rosemary, peppermint, cedar and clove oils.



There are 4 common tick species in Washington. The Western black-legged tick is found west of the Cascades, and likes forested and brushy areas. These ticks can carry Lyme disease, but only a few human cases are reported in Washington each year. This tick can also carry the disease, anaplasmosis. Numerous dogs have been diagnosed with anaplasmosis, and the first human case in Washington was reported in 2022. Horses can be infected with both Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

In the picture on the left (courtesy California Department of Public Health) there are three western black-legged ticks on a ruler. The tick on the top is a fed, or engorged, female. A tick's body slowly enlarges to accommodate the amount of blood ingested. The bottom left tick is an unfed female. The tick on the bottom right is an unfed male.

Two other tick species found in our state are the Western dog tick and Rocky Mountain wood tick. Both are known to transmit Rocky Mountain spotted fever, although it is uncommon in Washington.

Western dog ticks are found on the east side and parts of southwest Washington. Rocky Mountain wood ticks are primarily on the east side. They are similar in appearance, and inhabit similar places like wooded areas, medium height grasses and shrubs, and sunny or open areas along the edge of woods.



Western dog tick.

PHOTO BY JAMES GATHANY, CDC

continued on page 6

If You Did Not Make it to 2023's Rendezvous, You Missed a Perfect Weekend!

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

The springtime weather in Ellensburg cooperated to make this year's event truly memorable. Every place I looked, people listened to various clinicians, demos and educational opportunities. We brought in two large outdoor awnings to maximize the number of horse demos we could accommodate. Tom Reed, a talented clinician for both horse and rider, held 2 days of hands-on learning in the Bloom. The parking lots were packed full of cars and people all weekend. You had to park out by the Western Village if you did not get there early enough in the day or camped in the usual places.

The used tack sale filled the Armory, and we plan to use all the side rooms next year. We may have broken a record in our sales! I do not think I have seen so many saddles in one place before; it seemed like there was a little of everything. Linda and her team had a spectacular first year and are working on ways to improve the sale in 2024.

The bucket, silent and live auctions had received many more donations than in past years. Missy's team did a marvelous job accepting donations and coordinating items for the silent and live auctions. Mandy and Kim really outdid themselves on the bucket auction! The tables for all the auctions were packed with fantastic items.

Cascade Mtn Grilling did a great job with concessions and

Saturday night dinner. They added an outdoor awning for breakfast and lunch grilling, mmmmm.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped. We truly could not have pulled it off without everyone's hard work. Many people contribute parts of the year and most of their weekend to make this a very successful BCHW event, and they are rock stars in my book! If you want to join the team, please get ahold of me to volunteer and tell me what area you would like to focus on.

We are now starting to plan for Rendezvous 2024; 2023 was great. What can we come up with next? Some good ideas are out there, and I will try to capitalize on them. I have heard that members want a packing competition throughout the weekend, and I have someone willing to head it up! We have been thinking about how it would look, and oh, do I have some ideas there! We will need several volunteers to make it an event, so let me know if you would like to help. Stay tuned for more information.

Our first Zoom meeting will be at the end of April 2023 to discuss what went well and to start talking about 2024. 2023 taught me that I and all the chairs need more help! If you want to contribute, please get a hold of me. If your chapter wants to sponsor a clinician or demo, please get a hold of me to start the scheduling. I already have vendors signed up for 2024, but I am always on the hunt for more! Teri Starke, treasurer@bchw.org 🐾

Spring is Tick Season

continued from page 5

In Eastern Washington, the soft tick, *Ornithodoros hermsi*, (lower right) is common. It lives in association with rodents, so is found in places like wood piles and rustic seasonal cabins, and is



Female Rocky Mountain wood tick.

only active at night. Soft ticks can cause relapsing fever, which is a bacterial infection that can be treated with antibiotics.

So next time you head out on the trail, remember to pack the bug repellent and tick removal device, and check yourself and your critters thoroughly at the end of the day for any unwanted 8-legged hitchhikers.

References and for more information go to www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Pests/Ticks and www.cdc.gov/ticks. 🐾



PHOTO BY ANNA PEREZ, CDC

BCHW Sawyer Training Rendezvous 2023

PHOTO BY JIM THODE



On Saturday March 18th, Back Country Horsemen Saw Program held an update meeting with 19 of our Instructor Evaluators on the new Thinking Sawyer training. There have been many changes to our sawyer program, from how we register for a class to how we present classroom materials and information, field evaluation and finally, how to get the certification cards to the sawyers in the field out on the trails.

We also discussed our program budget and fund-raising ideas to help keep our program the best there is.

We get calls from different user groups, State of Washington entities, and county entities seeking Saw Certification along with DNR.

We have formed a great collaboration between WTA and EMBA doing Sawyer Training and Certification. This has also helped in working together on major trail maintenance work parties.

Also, BCHW held a Sawyer Classroom-only Class on Saturday afternoon with the new Thinking Sawyer PowerPoint.

With Folks From BCHW, WTA and EMBA covering the new policy changes and new PowerPoint on material and information, getting folks ready for Field Evaluation this Spring. One will be in April at Dallas Campgrounds on Hwy 410 in Greenwater and the other at Haney Meadows off Blewett Pass at the end of June. 🐾

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expired on December 31, 2022. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR MEMBERSHIPS *In Addition To Chapter Dues*

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

Congratulations to Your 2022 BCHW Awards Recipients

By Sue Sundahl, BCHW Awards Chair

I have the best Volunteer job in BCHW. Each year I ask for nominations for Awards and this year I was overwhelmed with nominations. Everyone in BCHW is deserving of an award for all the volunteer hours put forth for our organization. I am honored to recognize those that go above and beyond to volunteer. The dedication of time and energy that everyone gives to accomplish our Mission is

amazing. Thank you for all the nominations and all the work that volunteers put forth this year for a great Rendezvous experience. I want to thank all the Chapters and organizations that donated towards the awards program. I invite anyone who would like to contribute their ideas for the program to please contact me. I am always open for more suggestions to recognize our great volunteers. Thank you. 🐾

President's Diamond Award



Ken Carmichael
(Ponderosa Chapter)

Lifetime Achievement Award



Rob DeBoer
(Skagit Chapter)

Cinch Award



Jim and Elaine Davis
(Olympic Chapter)

Desk Jockey Award



Jane Byram
(Independent)



Rhonda Scott
(Ferry County Chapter)



Carolyn Stella
(Lewis County Chapter)

Lopper Award



Bob Hoyle
(Buckhorn Range Chapter)



Marsha O'Neal
(Lewis County Chapter)



Carole Schuh
(Rattlesnake Ridge Riders Chapter)



Fay Bradford
(Wenas Valley Chapter)



Mary McHugh
(Methow Chapter)

Backbone Award



Pete and Nancy Erben
(Grays Harbor Chapter)

Trail Warrior Award



Don O'Neal
(Lewis County Chapter)



Barb Talbot
(Pierce County Chapter)

It's Not All About The Backcountry



Setting mats on bridge.



Filling the corrals.

By Barbara Thomas

Most people associate BCHW as the organization responsible for keeping the backcountry wilderness maintained and usable for all user groups. The reality is that many chapters have a “front country” local camp and trail system that they help maintain and ensure that equines are recognized as important stewards of heavily used camps and trail systems close to more urban settings.

The advantage of these trail systems is that they are heavily used by a diverse group of people, including equine owners who have never been in the backcountry. This is our opportunity to reach out to those other user groups letting them know what a valuable asset it is to have BCHW as a partner.

A good example of a partnership is the relationship that Mt. St. Helen’s chapter of BCHW has local equine groups such as Washington Trail Riders Association, Clark County Executive Horse Council, Chinook Trails Association, Pacific NW Endurance Riders, and Washington Trails Association. Recently we had two work parties at popular local camps and trails. The first one at Battle Ground State Park in Battle Ground, WA and the second at Rock Creek Horse Camp, both located in SW Washington. Between the two we had members of each group who installed causeways on the trails, cleared limbs off the trail, installed non-slip mats on bridges and added fill to corrals. Partnering with each organization expands our recognition, brings in different levels of skill sets and cements lasting relationships for years to come.

Take care not to minimize the impact of communicating this story to local media. If you have a local trail or camp that is heavily used by the community and only 25% of these users know about or belong to BCHW, this creates an opportunity to promote the advantages of belonging to and partnering with this great organization. 🌱

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



Cispus Multiuser Group Sawyer Training



By Tony Karniss

On April 7th, 8th and 9th, Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) and Washington Trail Association (WTA) put on a 3-day Chainsaw Training and Certification Class. Fifteen instructors were involved in using the New Thinking Sawyer Program. There were 30 students: 12 new folks to become (A) sawyers, 14 recert sawyers to become (B) sawyers and 2 Sawyer recerts for (CSE) for WTA and Aaron Pederson from Region 6 US/SF. With the help of Emily Snyder from WTA, we had exceptionally good training.

Using the new classroom training curriculum and the new field evaluation and training, all the students liked the field evaluation and more instructor involvement in showing them how to make the different cuts to help them to better their sawing skills. We lucked out and had pleasant weather and a lot of good logs to

cut within walking distance of the classroom. We took advantage of the weather and were able to saw more to work toward bettering their sawing skills.

There were folks from five user groups: Back Country Horseman of Washington, Washington Trails Association, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Washington State ATV Association and the Oregonist Association.

Another new feature was a collaborative potluck for the evening meal, which went over great, along with a nice fire. There were a lot of good sawing questions and good answers, along with a great comradery of stories and a lot of information passed from other user groups of their trail projects for the year.

The result was just an awesome saw training. 🌲



Finding The Good In A Bad Situation



Dennis Jaspers, Ken Tinchner, Terry Tinchner, Mike St. Clair and Shawna St. Clair with a loaded pack animal.

By Mike Walcker,, Director, Wenatchee Valley chapter BCHW

It's something we all think about. What happens when things go wrong on a trail ride when we are miles away from the nearest emergency service and have an injured rider or an injured or distressed animal? Well, in one incident last year, cool heads, planning, and thoughtful preparation were the key, but it also allowed for a swift response and, in the end, a new productive partnership.

Several of our members had packed into a remote area out of the Blackpine Horse camp in Chelan County. While doing trail work, a pack animal was injured and ultimately had to be put down at the work site. With a large amount of gear to move, along with riders, the group was in a difficult situation. That is

continued on page 13



WASART truck and trailer



Ken and Terry Tinchner, Shawna St. Clair folding a pack loaded with WASART supplies

Finding The Good In A Bad Situation

continued from page 12

where planning and preparation came into play. A remote satellite radio/communication device had been packed, and they were able to contact a member who had stayed behind in Western Washington. They were able to accurately assess their situation and gave good information for help to be dispatched. (cool heads!)

The person they contacted called Joanne Walcker, President of the Wenatchee Valley Chapter of BCHW, requesting assistance. Within an hour, Joanne had contacted Ken and Terry Tinchner, seasoned packers from Wenatchee who didn't hesitate to load up gear, animals, and provisions and drive to the Blackpine horse camp to ride into the members in distress. Ken, the Vice President of the Wenatchee Chapter, reported that they had made the trip up to the group,



WASART equipment laid out on a pack prior to weighing and folding.



Terry Tinchner walking a loaded animal to insure the packs were properly attached and balanced on the horse.

loaded up supplies, and had the group out of the woods in less than 12 hours.

If this were the end of the story, it would be, with exception of the loss of a valued stock animal, a success story on many accounts. It would highlight the importance of planning and having the proper equipment and show the importance of all of us being willing to lend a hand whenever we are asked. But it grew from there. Also in the conversation during this event was a group called WASART, an acronym for Washington State Animal Response Team. WASART is a volunteer group specially equipped to respond to situations around the state where animals need a rescue for any reason.

Not all backcountry horse people are aware of WASART, and they (WASART) were not well versed in

packing supplies and gear when the rescue is miles from the nearest road.

So, a meeting was set up to introduce us to their group and their group to our pack animal experts.

We met at the Appleatchee horse club in Wenatchee on September 10, 2022, in the covered arena.

WASART brought a very impressive truck and trailer combination with a trailer full of rescue equipment. Ken and Terry Tinchner, Mike and Shawna St. Clair, and Dennis Jaspers, all members of the Wenatchee Valley Chapter and seasoned packers, brought horses and packs. Several other local horse folks came to observe the event. Tarps were laid out, and rescue tools were arraigned on the tarps so the weight did not exceed 70 lbs. They were then bundled up and tied to the panniers to show what an animal could carry, how it should be packed, and the best ways to move the equipment to the rescue site.

All in all, it was a great day with many new friendships made and tons of good information exchanged. This entire event reminded us of the basics of backcountry adventures and what to do when something goes wrong. It also reminds us that after the event, always look for the good in a bad situation. 🍀

Ride With Speed and Ease



Riders and low sand hills ahead



Horses in mist around pond

By Louise Walton

You know you are truly fortunate when you have friends that talk you into a fabulous adventure. Lynn Herrington and Marian Carson said, "Let's go to Iceland and ride Icelandic horses."

Icelandic horses have an interesting background. The Vikings selected horses based on their size (fit in a boat) and strength (ability to work hard). In 982, all imports of horses were stopped; therefore, all their horses are purebreds. On average, they stand 12 – 14 hands high and weigh 600 – 800 pounds. They have a sweet temperament and are smart, cooperative, and willing to work. All true per our experience.

We started our journey by touring the capital of Reykjavik for a few days. On 07.25.22, we flew to Husavik in north Iceland to ride at Saltvik Farms. Our first task was to get the horses in from their overnight feeding in a lush green field. The herd charged in, and it was an exhilarating sight with many colors, manes, and tails flying high. Next, we each picked out a saddle. I had never ridden English; what did I know? I could have used one without knee rolls, which bruised my knees. Otherwise, a good seat works on whatever saddle style you use. The staff helped us to bridle and

place the saddle. I started to groom the mane but was told, "No, we don't do that." "Grooming" entails getting the dirt off the back where the saddle sits.

Then our horse wrangler, not the Icelandic word for our horse/ride manager, Meika, asked what kind of horse we each wanted. Sister Sue requested one that was fast, adventurous, and a bit naughty – she lived to regret that. I asked for the safest, best trained, take-care-of -me, and kind horse. Gylfi was my favorite. His To'lt, a classic four-beat gait, was smooth, easy to manage, always responsive, and all-around sweet. I also rode Freya, who was Marian's favorite. Another great horse. Being the oldest rider in the group, I was very well treated and got to ride at the rear of the troop. The best spot for taking pictures.

We all learned one Icelandic word from Meika: YAYA. That means to mount up and be ready to take off at a To'lt. Except for the first day, a 9-mile training run, the next four days ranged from 18 to 24 miles.

continued on page 15



Awards ceremony.



Herd coming in

Ride With Speed and Ease

continued from page 14

The days began with a hearty breakfast we used to make our lunch. By about 10 AM, we mounted and hustled over the remarkable volcanic landscape with a herd of up to 70 horses. Some riders were at the front leading the herd. Others followed behind on narrow trails just wide enough for horses' hooves. Be careful, or you might hit your boots on the brush at the trail edge. Check out the size of those saddles from the rear view.

At noon we stopped for the lunch break. All the tack was taken off the horses, and they mingled in a coral with the herd. Soon we were assigned a fresh horse to tack up. A quick "YAYA" and away we went for the afternoon ending up back at the farm or, for one night, the hut. Despite the sun never going down, we never had trouble sleeping at night.

The landscape was crossed by many rivers. Due to the amount of rainfall and glaciers, crossing the Laxa' River informed me that my boots were NOT waterproof as advertised. That combination of long legs and a short horse equaled wet feet. The hearty Ice-lander on our trip dismounted and walked across. Exiting the river, he pounded his chest and exclaimed, "So refreshing!" I think he had a flask in his pocket for warming purposes.

The riding terrain was varied and mostly rolling, except for some rock walls. The land comes from volcanic eruptions, which weather. We were prepared with rain gear but were fortunate not to need it much. Icelanders pride themselves on being good stewards of their land. I never saw a single piece of trash around the farm or on the trails.

Our hosts were welcoming, friendly, and fun. We were treated to an awards ceremony after our last supper. Bjarni, the owner and a Viking, adorned with the horned hat, was a hoot at the ceremony. Meika, in her big red spectacles, awarded the certificates marking our accomplishments and recording our favorite horse.

Marian, Sue, and Lynn received their certificates together. Turns out there was a special surprise for me. Hugs all around with a special "hug" from Bjarni, who, when I whispered in his ear that I had never been hugged by a Viking, picked me up and swung me around with giggles and applause from the group. I guess getting to be the oldest comes with some surprises and perks. Certainly, a fabulous adventure I would love to repeat. Maybe in 2024. 🍀



Along the high wall of rock.



Herd in front of line of riders



Crossing stream



Saddling up – long mane

BCHW Members Are The First To Know About Exciting New Developments For The 2023 BCHW Winery Ride on October 28th

- The two camps will be open for participants at 10 AM on Friday instead of 1 PM.
- Wineries will be ready to take any pre-orders on Friday, allowing participants to ride further and taste new wines along the route on Saturday.
- If you plan on riding this great event, start thinking about those individual or team costumes. If you would like to volunteer, mark your calendar. We will send out notices that registration and volunteer sign-up will be available by July 2023. If you have any questions, contact us at bchwwineryride@gmail.com. 🐾



Title of art is Red Rider. Designed by Jill Haney Neal

NEW RATES!

Donate Money to BCHW by Buying an Ad in The Trailhead News

BCHW The Trailhead News Ad Insertion Rates (Design Extra Cost) Email Ads to: thn@bchw.org

Ad Deadline Dates and Payment Due <small>(or first business day after this date)</small>	Publish Date of Newsletter	Ad Size	Ad Dimensions	Ad Cost 1x Insertion
December 1	Jan/Feb	Back Cover 3/4 page	8" H x 8" W	\$331.00
January 18	Mar/April	Inside Front Cover	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
April 1	May/June	Inside Back Cover	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
June 1	July/Aug	Full Page	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
August 1	Sept/Oct	3/4 Page	6 1/4" H x 7 1/2" W	\$331.00
October 1	Nov/Dec	Half Page (Horizontal)	4 3/4" H x 7 1/2" W	\$248.00
		Half Page (Vertical)	10" H x 3 5/8" W	\$248.00
		Third Page	3 1/2" H x 7 1/2" W	\$166.00
		Quarter Page	4 3/4" H x 3 5/8" W	\$124.00
		Business Card	2" H x 3 5/8" W	\$62.00

Ads must meet professional publishing standards. Ads must be high resolution (300 dpi) PDFs or JPGs. Modifications are billable for design at \$80.00 per hour; \$40.00 minimum charge, billed to the advertiser. All ads subject to approval by BCHW.

**\$225.00 per issue & per spot color ad
\$600.00 per issue for full color ads**

**Make payment payable to:
Back Country Horsemen of Washington**

Send check along with ad to:
BCHW The Trailhead News
Washington Media Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 7184, Olympia, WA 98507

**Any advertising questions
please contact:**

Adriane Goodwin
360.754.4543 • Fax 360.943.7086
thn@bchw.org • visit: www.bchw.org

Conditions: Washington Media Services, Inc. and the Back Country Horsemen of Washington The Trailhead News magazine assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions. The advertiser assumes liability for the content of the advertisement and any claims that may arise there from against the publisher.

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: bchw@wamedia.com.

Buckhorn Range Chapter Olympic National Forest, LeBar Horse Camp and lower S. Fork Skokomish River Trail

Friday-Sunday, May 19-21, 2023
Pre-Register On-Line @ Bchw.org Required
By April 30th
Campsites Reserved Friday-Sunday & Assigned at Check-In
Creek Campground Nearby Has 12 Sites + 8 Tent-Only Sites.
Sat. Evening Meal & Sun. Breakfast Provided
Bring Water – Lebar Is A Dry Camp
Bob Hoyle: 360-531-2337 • bobhoyle@usa.net

Ponderosa Chapter Poker Ride

Sunday, May 21, 2023
First rider out 9:00 • Raffle
Pre-registration by May 9, 2023 \$25
Registration available online
Registration at ride \$30
Riverside State Park, Spokane
Camping available
Ken Carmichael 509-466-2225
Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
www.pbchw.com

Black Pine Horse Camp and Vicinity Work Party

Saturday-Tuesday, May 27-30, 2023
Black Pine Horse Camp – Drive to Jack Creek TH & chain saw to Wilderness Boundary then Chainsaw Jack Pine and 1597 connector trail back toward camp
Barb Talbot 253-312-3626

Black Pine Horse Camp and Vicinity Work Party

Cross Cut Extravaganza Hike In
Saturday-Tuesday, June 3-6, 2023
Black Pine Horse Camp, drive to Jack Creek TH – one team crosscut up Trout Trail, one team crosscut up Jack Creek trail
Barb Talbot 253-312-3626

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, June 17, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President. Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Black Pine Horse Camp And Vicinity Work Party Juneteenth Pack Stock And Hiker Teams Logging Together-Back At Camp Every Night

Saturday-Wednesday, June 17-21, 2023
Black Pine Horse Camp
Barb Talbot 253-312-3626

Lewis County Chapter

Gifford Pinchot National Forest- Green River Horse Camp
Wednesday-Sunday, June 21-25, 2023
Registration Is Required.
Tony Karniss: 360-520-5697
Tkarniss@Gmail.com
Leonard Wright: 360-506-1598
Wrightleonard00@Gmail.com

Fund Ride 2023 Grays Harbor Chapter

Saturday, June 24, 2023
Riders out 9-11 am
Green Diamond lands, west of Matlock, north of Montesano
Register day of event only. Members \$25 registration. Fee includes ride, lunch & 1-prize ticket.
\$10 for additional lunches
V.I.P. camping. Email for details.
Porta-potty but no water onsite, bring your own
Beth Branshaw 360-581-6535
bbranshaw@hotmail.com
www.graysharborbchw.com

BCHW Haney Meadow Regional Work and Ride

Friday-Wednesday, June 30-July 5, 2023
Ken Wilcox Horse Camp
Pre-registration is required by June 1
bchw.org for registration form
Ed Letcher 206-478-9331
edtrailblazer@gmail.com
Ken Evans 360-903-1592 • pkevans@tds.net

Black Pine Horse Camp and Vicinity Work Party

4th Of July Pack In To Hunter Camp
Saturday-Thursday, July 1-6, 2023
Barb Talbot 253-312-3626

Vicki Gish Memorial Ride – Northeast BCHW Chapter

Friday-Sunday, July 14-16, 2023
Calispel Basin/Meadow (Sand Canyon), Colville National Forest, Chewelah, WA
Weed seed free forage required
No Stallions or dogs on trails. Dogs must be on leash in camp
Saturday: Potluck to share or dutchoven cooking.
Overnight camping available
Stock water and porta-potties available
Marian Carson, mca9590561@msn.com or 509-999-1547

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 bchw@wamedia.com.

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 _____

Content Deadline for the July/August 2023 Digital Newsletter is June 1, 2023

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

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

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

ATTENTION!

FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

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Big Pack in Work Party

Saturday-Friday, July 15-21, 2023
Barb Talbot 253-312-3626

Lewis County Chapter William O. Douglas Wilderness – Carlton Creek/Soda Springs Cowlitz Horse Camp and Surrounding Trails

Monday-Sunday, July 17-23, 2023
Registration is required.
Tony Karniss: 360-520-5697
tkarniss@gmail.com

Gifford Pinchot National Forest - Nannie Ridge Re-Route

Wednesday-Sunday, August 9-13, 2023
Registration is required.
Tom Conner 360-269-3804
Tkranch@Toledotel.com
Tony Karniss 360-520-5697
Tkarniss@Gmail.com

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, September 16, 2023
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

22nd Annual Winery Ride

Saturday, October 28, 2023
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



June 10 – National Get Outdoors Day

June 11 – Free Fishing Weekend

June 19 – Juneteenth

September 23 – National Public Lands Day

October 10 – World Mental Health Day

November 11 – Veterans Day

November 24 – Autumn Day

Example

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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 _____