



MVBCH

HORSE TALES

BCHW.ORG

[FB Discussion Group](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mission: The purpose of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington is to perpetuate the legal and moral claim by the American people to use horses and mules for recreation on public lands.

2022 Chapter Officers

- **Director:** DK Williams (360-676-1319)
- **President:** Cathy Upper (509.429.2955)
- **Vice President:** Michelle Schmidtke (206-730-1904)
- **Treasurer:** Bennet Upper (509.429.2955)
- **Secretary:** Michelle Schmidtke (206-730-1904) and Sue Elson 509-997-0430
- **Volunteer Hours:** Kay MacCready (509.996.3969)
- **Membership:** Megan Casey (425-533-5833)
- **Newsletter/Blog:** Linda Seaman (cell 206.909.9676)
- **Budget:** Pete Stoothoff (509.997.7004)
- **Historian:** Jan Ford (509.997.0133)
- **Sunshine:** Betty Wagoner (509.279.8717)
- **Trail Bosses:** Bill Ford (509.997.0133)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Cathy Upper



Hello folks—just got back from the Rendezvous and it was a great time! Even came back with a new saddle.

We managed to sell all the pack saddles etc that we took down; 15% goes to state and the rest to us—yes! There was a lot of tack going in and out of that building.

Christina had a good turnout for her hoof health talk but got cut a little short on time. We'll have to correct that if she's willing to do it next year.

I had numerous people interested in our Spring Ride and they were all thankful that we are having it again. It's time for our chapter members to sign up to help—there are lot's of opportunities and plenty of choices to pitch in and help—it takes a village to pull this off! More details at our April 7th meeting—it starts at 5 o'clock PM inside at Twisp Works, and masks are not required—even inside the Conference Room! See you there!

Are Your Trailer Tires Safe??

Tire rubber deteriorates over time due to UV and environmental exposure. This leaves the tire structure brittle and leads to sidewall damage and eventual failure.

THE INDUSTRY STANDARD AGE LIMIT FOR TIRES IS 6 YEARS!

How do you determine a tire's "Born On Date"???????

The Date Code is on your tire... To find it, identify the code on the tire that begins with 'DOT'. The 'DOT' will be followed by a series of letters and numbers. The last four digits of those numbers is the code that tells you the date when your tire was manufactured. The code ends in four (4) numerals and corresponds to the 2-digit week followed by the 2-digit year. The first two numbers indicate what week of the year it was made (out of 52 weeks per year), and the second two numbers represent the year.

For example, 3408 would reveal that a tire was manufactured during the 34th week or (mid August) of the year 2008.

Thank you TrailMeister for this trailer safety check!!

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MVBCH MARCH 3, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Corrections to last minutes: Cathy Upper noted that trail work would be done this summer at Lewis Lake (not Louis Lake).

Directors Report: No report. DK not present.

Treasurers Report: (Bennet Upper) MVBCH has been receiving payments for Spring Ride registrations as well as annual membership dues. Our expenses have been for renewing trailer licenses and a new grill. Any member may contact Treasurer Bennet Upper for more details.

Volunteer Hours: (Kay MacCready) Kay distributed patches for volunteer hours and discussed how to fill out the volunteer hours form. She also wants travel time and mileage information. Kay is looking for a replacement for her position as volunteer hours coordinator.

Spring Ride: (Cathy Upper)

MVBCH will be working off $\frac{1}{2}$ the \$500 permit fee by cleaning up the horse camp. Pete will supply a tractor and Methow Trails is supplying a dumper trailer. A sign-up sheet was passed around for jobs that needed to be filled. Ashley, Cathy and Mary will go through the kitchen trailer to inventory contents and to see if anything else is needed. Mike is in charge of coffee.

Cathy said we can have a coffee station at the half-way point of the ride (old lunch site) that would include snacks and a port-a-potty.

There was much discussion about details pertaining to obtaining supplies and setting up coffee station.

Thursday, April 28th will be the set-up day starting at 9am. On Friday, all auction items and logo wear will be brought to the Beaver Creek Campground.

Music is being organized by Betty.

Ashley suggested the Bitter Root Beats as a music selection. Michelle suggested Lauralee Northcott. Another possibility was Honey and the Killer Bees. It was generally agreed that one group was enough for Friday night music.

Pete asked Rick who was going to be in charge of Buy-it-Now. Michelle volunteered to take care of the cash-box at the logo wear stand.

Cathy said permits are pending. Brandon (WDFW) said Pipestone Ridge will probably be off limits due to golden eagles nesting in that area.

Heaters were requested for vendors and volunteer stations.

Calendar: (Betty Wagoner) Betty requested submissions for more rides.

Projects: (Cathy)

Cathy talked to Landon, USFS lead on trails, about what work projects are being scheduled and asked him to keep MVBCH updated about projects. Some upcoming projects are:

- * Re-decking Lewis Lake bridge
- * Williams Lake tread work
- * Logging out any other Twisp River Trails (contact Bill Ford)

The WDFW survey closed March 1st. WDFW thinks horse users represent only 6% of users of WDFW land. MVBCH should be prepared to help on WDFW projects and Heide Anderson is our contact person (heide.anderson@dfw.wa.gov)

South Pass (Mary McHugh) The family that owns the inholding on the South Pass trail have still not signed any paper work with the USFS to release the property needed to reroute the trail. The ownership of the property has not been transferred to Jack Cramer and his mother that owns it has been difficult to pin down. The USFS requests that MVBCH not go up the South Creek trail or do any trail work on it.

Sawyer Training: (Pete Stoothoff) Sawyer training is happening the first week of May somewhere around the Twisp River Horse Camp.

"'The mule', he was fond of saying, 'is as much smarter than a horse as a raven is smarter than a falcon. Neither a raven nor a mule will go charging into combat just because some human tells him to.' "

Author: Randall Garrett, American science fiction and fantasy author.



Need a Place to Board Your Equines?

A 2-3 acre pasture on East County Road near Bear Creek Lumber is available for horse boarding!

There is a small barn for hay storage and shelter from the elements. Fencing is in decent shape - but may need some fixes here and there.

Owner is open to a low monthly rate or trade if the border will move the irrigation line a few times per week during the grazing season.

Email Chris Solomon: solochris@gmail.com or call/text 347-556-6364

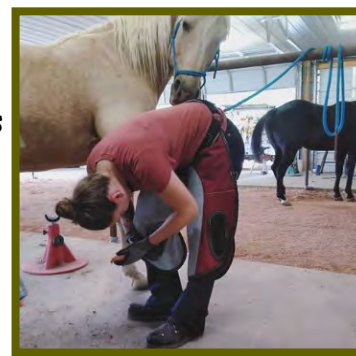
ML FARRIER SERVICES



Offering shoeing and barefoot trimming in the Methow Valley. Melissa Stusinski is a Winthrop resident and graduate of the Equine Lameness Prevention Organization's farrier school.

Contact Melissa:

425-478-4005 or
mlsfarrierservices@gmail.com



MVBCH MARCH 3, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

First Aid Courses: A first aid course is available at the Rendezvous but is currently full. Cathy said there may be someone new from AeroRescue that is teaching first aid classes. Pete said AED/CPR needs to be given live (not online). Pete will send out an email to all persons interested in sawyer training and will alert those who need to renew.

NSHC: Pete said a hole needs to be dug for the water tank and a trench needs to be dug for the piping from the water tank. We now have the water tank. Cathy has contacted some people who have chips for the highline areas. Cathy said she will supply information about the NSHC to The Trailmeister.

White Paper: The USFS has come up with "guidelines" about designating Horse Camps for stock users only. However, MVBCH still has to coordinate this effort with our local ranger district. So far, we get to put up signs that say "For Stock Users Only." We have no authority to kick non-stock users out of our horse camps even though horse users would get kicked out of regular campgrounds. Other districts with horse camps have camp hosts that regulate campground use or have a reservation system.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Schmidtke

The 2022 Rendezvous Was a Huge Success For MVBCH!!



Our chapter donated a chainsaw which sold for a very good price as well.



MVBCH Director DK Williams (center) receives the Trail Warrior award from BCHW President Dana Chambers (R) and BCHW Vice President Iddins (L).



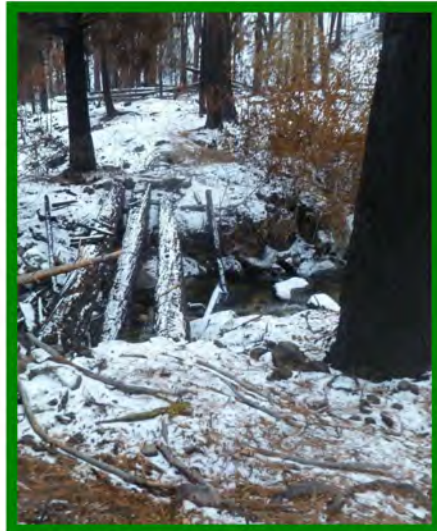
(L-R) Megan Casey, our new Membership Chair, and DK after the awards. Sue's Lopper award lays on the table in front of DK.



Our chapter Director DK Williams was presented with the Trail Warrior award (and a brand new ax!) that is given to members who are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails—just like DK is always doing! Member Sue Elson, who was unable to attend the Rendezvous this year, received the Lopper award. This award is for members who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to their chapter or to BCHW by participation and promotion of what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. She was presented with a 'lopper' (as is shown on the table in front of DK above, right). We had 9 MVBCH members representing our chapter so the table was more than full, and everyone had a great time!

MVBCH TRAIL WORK 2019 - 2021

In 2019 MVBCH spent 1700+ hours on trails and horse camps in the Methow Valley.



Eagle Creek Bridge after Crescent Mountain fire 2018 (L) and after a rebuild 2020 (R)



Twisp River Trail June 2019



South Creek
Trail
2019
←



Twisp Pass
Trail, June
2019
→

North Summit Horse Campground



Concreting
in high line
posts Oct
2020
←



Day
Area with
Picnic
Shelter and
tables
2021
→

Methow Valley Back Country Horsemen (MVBCH)

COME JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING RIDE AUCTION! APRIL 30th, 2022

MVBCH is a chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) which is a Public Charitable Organization as defined under Section 501 (c) 3 of the Federal Revenue code.

Proceeds help us with our mission to keep trails in the Methow Valley open and maintained for all users. The 2020 and 2021 Rides were cancelled due to the pandemic.

**Our Spring Ride & Auction is the main fund raiser for MVBCH.
Please consider a donation if you are interested in keeping trails
open and accessible.**

MVBCH Achievements 2019 to 2021

Since the last (2019) Ride we have continued to work on trails and on the horse camps.

2019 - 842 hours of work on Forest Service trails: 15 trails burnt in the Crescent Mountain Fire in 2018 were logged out and five trails were opened for use.

2020 and **2021** – despite restrictions of the pandemic, over 1050 hours were spent working on 17 trails in 2020 and 18 in 2021. We helped rebuild Eagle Creek Bridge, on Twisp River Trail #440 in five days in July 2020. It had been destroyed by the Crescent Mountain fire.

Construction of North Summit Horse Campground continued and the Camp was brought near to completion with 12 sites for camping with horses. Some restoration work was done at Twisp River Horse Camp

Plans for 2022 and Beyond

A massive amount of work is needed to make many of the trails useable after the 2018 (Crescent Mountain) and 2021 (Cedar Creek and Cub Creek) fires. Burnt trees have fallen on trails and there are numerous standing hazard trees which could fall at any time; tread is damaged by washouts or underground burning of tree roots; bridges need repairs or replacement.

We will work on trails in conjunction with other chapters of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, the Forest Service, Washington Trails Association and several other trail organizations. Restoration work is ongoing at Twisp River Horse Camp and North Summit Horse Camp should be completed by mid 2022.

2022 METHOW VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN ANNUAL SPRING RIDE & AUCTION

BEAVER CREEK CAMPGROUND, TWISP, WA

A FAMILY CAMPING WEEKEND IN THE METHOW VALLEY—JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!



APRIL 29—MAY 1

DIRECTIONS TO BEAVER CREEK CAMPGROUND: From SR #153 – Just south of Twisp, turn east on Hwy. 20 toward Okanogan-Omak. Go about 2.5 miles on #20 and turn left onto Upper Beaver Creek Road. From the east side (Okanogan/Omak) - Follow Hwy #20 to MP 207. Turn right onto Upper Beaver Creek Road. The campground is about 7 miles after turning onto Upper Beaver Creek Road—watch for the MVBCH Spring Ride signs!

Discover or WDFW Fishing License Pass Required

ALL DOGS MUST BE LEASHED WHILE IN CAMP – NO DOGS ON THE RIDE. NO STALLIONS.

**DUTCH OVEN POT LUCK
FRIDAY EVENING
TRAIL RIDE SATURDAY
10-3PM
POKER GAME ON RIDE
SILENT AUCTION
SATURDAY (CLOSES @ 5PM)
BBQ DINNER SATURDAY
EVENING @ 5:30PM
EVENING CAMPFIRE
ENTERTAINMENT
BUCKAROO BREAKFAST
SUNDAY MORNING
AND, BEST OF ALL—
FRIENDLY FOLKS!!**

MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

MVBCH Bennet Upper
156 Spook Haven Rd.
Winthrop, WA 98862

Need More Information?

Call: Bev Phillippi

509-668-1024

E-mail: bev2ap@gmail.com

RIDE REGISTRATION (INCLUDES SATURDAY BBQ DINNER) REGISTER BY APRIL 22ND

(AFTER APRIL 22ND, \$30 EACH ADULT RIDER, \$15 EACH FOR 12 YRS AND UNDER)

Pre-Registration _____ @ \$25 Each _____ {kids \$13 (12 & under) _____} Poker game _____ @ \$5 each _____

If registration is after April 22nd: _____ @ \$30 Each _____ {kids \$15 (12 & under) _____}

Buckaroo Breakfast: _____ @ \$10 Each _____ {kids \$5 (12 & under) _____} Other: _____

Complete the registration, each adult sign the release and send with your check to the address above

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders, and spectators and also recognizing the fact that Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Inc., including chapters, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in Trail rides or other BCHW or chapter functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses. Under Washington law, an equine sponsor or equine professionals are not liable for any injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to RCW 4.24.530 (Equine Activity Liability Act).

Print Names: _____

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST. _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail address: _____

Linda Seaman
1709 134th Ave SE #14
Bellevue, WA 98005



No masks required
inside TwispWorks!!

Join us at the April
7th meeting to help
us gear up for the
2022 Spring Ride!

WE NEED YOU!

April Agenda

Spring Ride
Work Parties
Sayer Training
Rides 'n Fun

(Contact Cathy Upper if
you wish to add a topic)

Thursday, April 7th, 2022
5 pm Business Meeting
@ TwispWorks Conference Room
502 S Glover St, Twisp, WA