



MVBCH

# HORSE TALES

[BCHW.ORG](http://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 (509-293-1413)
- **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



Cathy Upper

Summer plans are big here--I have been working on Williams Lake trail. Sunday I'm into Billy Goat with Betsy Devin Smith and the hotshots to log for 4 days. I'm leaving for Ireland on Thursday but will be back before our next meeting in early August.

We had a good turnout for the last meeting/potluck so let's plan on doing the same for the August 4th meeting. This time, however, I'd like to have us celebrate our last big NSHC project at the North Summit Horse Campground!! Yes, we're finally finished with this huge project and I'd like to have our August meeting in the picnic shelter at our spectacular North Summit Horse Campground! Projects are coming along just about everywhere so our meeting will be short as was the last one—we'll get to update each other on our work plans!

We are busy, busy, busy these days!! Summer always seems to be like that. Can't believe the difference from last summer when the fires hit. The plants are so high on our hill they're hard to walk through. Life is changing.

**I hope to see you at our August 4th meeting/potluck at our usual time (5pm), but we will meet at our beautiful North Summit Horse Campground in the Picnic Shelter and celebrate our hard work at the NSHC!**

**SEE YOU THERE!**

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## MVBCH JULY 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Tina Davis, Betty Wagoner, Bill Ford, Jan Ford, Kathy Roby, Ann Port, Mary Pat Bauman, Heidi Weston, Mary McHugh, Dan Shaw, Pete Stoothoff, Mark Brantner, Jackie Eddings, Sue Elson, Cathy Upper,

### Minutes:

Cathy started Introductions, all around the group.

No directors report today.

Financial report: all expenses were paid for spring ride and we made profits comparable to previous years.

There is a Facebook discussion group for our local users- good for pictures, updates on projects, etc.

TRHC work party was a success. A little finish up work must be done before Dennis Jones can come in and make piles for winter burning. They can be as big as we want. USFS will do the burning.

Survey for reroute on South Cr not done yet.

TRT brushing project continues.

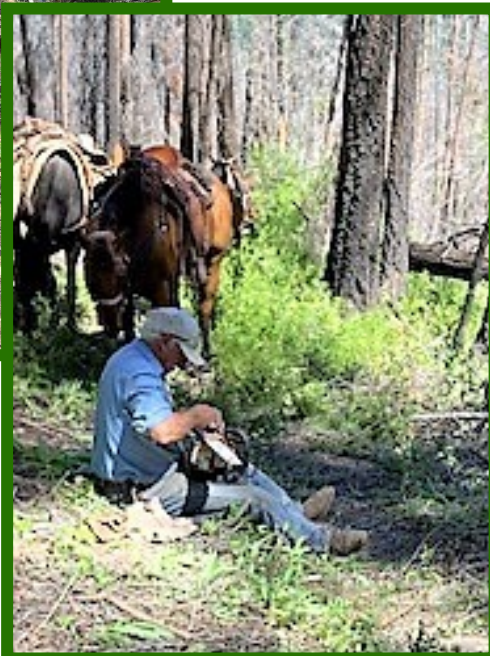
Other projects: Williams Lake trail has about 65 trees down that should come out before the beginning of August when the WCC trail crew comes in to do tread work.

NSHC water tank project is proceeding with a crew requested for Saturday. We should have water available in a couple of weeks. There will be a spigot that shuts off automatically to prevent waste. The tank must be filled with a tanker truck.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Elson, Secretary.

### Update — Williams Creek Trail #407

Pictures of DK, Stacy, and others on Williams show them working on the switchback portion of the trail. Cathy and Mike Liu subsequently cut out to the wilderness boundary, approximately three miles from the trailhead. There is mis-information from someone who hiked over seven miles to the lake that there were only eight or nine trees on the trail beyond the wilderness boundary but—Cathy reported they cut out 45 trees!





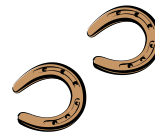
"God gave me the  
stubbornness of a mule and  
a fairly keen scent."

*Albert Einstein*



## Bonaparte Mountain

Work was done there by a state hotshot work party, including Cathy.



Make A Difference

**Volunteer**



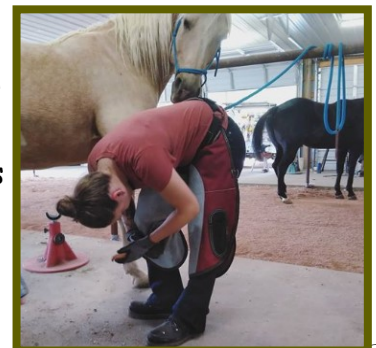
### ML FARRIER SERVICES

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](mailto:mlsfarrierservices@gmail.com)





# North Summit Horse Campground (NSHC)

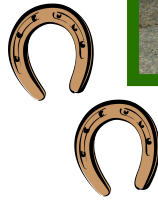
PHASE II Update  
June/July 2022



Water tank for NSHC at FS work shop before transport to NSHC. Drilled and installed valves on 1425 gallon tank. One 3-inch inlet valve, one 1 ½-inch outlet valve.



Pete Stoothoff on the move with the water tank heading to the NSHC.



Hole dug for tank with excavator. Pete (L) and Jeff McHugh (R) checking the size.



Jeff shoveling bedding sand in hole, Pete watching.



Lifting the water tank from the trailer to take it up to the hole.



Pete (L) and Jeff (R) with tank settled in place.



# North Summit Horse Campground (NSHC)

PHASE II Update, June/July 2022 (Cont.)



Pete and Jeff digging trench for pipes between tank and the inlet and outlet.



280 ft of 3 inch PVC and one and half inch black plastic laid in trench. (View is from tank end.)



The start of the valve and drain installation at



Pete (L) and Bill Ford (R) putting in covers to protect valves from fill.



Pete with the tank ready to be covered.



The tank is covered and Pete finishes up!





# North Summit Horse Campground (NSHC)

PHASE II Update, June/July 2022 (Cont.)



The outlet is covered and faucet installed.



Pete installing fence around water outlet.



The water outlet compound that allows proper drainage is ready for the gate.

## Water for Horses at NSHC!

Provision of water for horses is the last major project in construction of the North Summit Horse Campground.

The tank and a system of pipes were installed during the first half of July and water flowed at 10:45 AM on July 15th! McHugh Excavations (Jeff McHugh) dug the hole and trenches to accommodate the tank and pipes and helped bed down the tank.

After all the connections had been made and protected, Jeff returned to cover everything.

Pete planned the system, ordered all the parts, and coordinated the construction. He and Bill gave a combined sigh of relief when, after 12 days of concentrated work, water came from the spigot.

Although a few days are still required to provide protective fencing and signs for the tank and outlets, water is available for use and the campground is fully functional and close to completion.





## Lightning Creek Bridge

At our June MVBCH meeting (see minutes) members voted to provide up to \$2,000 from trail funds to pay Jess Darwood to pack in timbers for Lightning Creek Bridge as requested by Allen Jircik (Trails Collaborative).

These pictures from Cathy Upper show these funds in use...





## Edema in Horses — What you should know!

You confined your horse to a stall last night. You have trail ride today and wanted him clean and ready to go. But when you enter the stall you gasp. Your horse is walking stiffly and all four legs are swollen from the knees and hocks down.

Your horse may be experiencing "stocking-up", an accumulation of fluid in the lower legs. The horse relies on movement to help pump blood and lymph back up the legs. The digital cushion and muscle action act as pumps. If the horse is prevented from moving this fluid can accumulate. Gravity pulls it to the lower part of the legs. Such accumulation of fluid is edema.

Edema is often what we call "pitting." If you gently press on it the pressure leaves a depression or "dimple" but edema doesn't just occur in legs and it can be serious. When called the veterinarian will ask an anxious owner a few questions. Is their horses temperature normal? Are they eating normally? Is there a normal amount and appearance of manure in the stall? Are they bright and alert? Have they been exposed to other horses recently? How old are they and what are they fed? Have they been tested for parasites?

There are several causes of edema. Ventral edema along the lower abdominal wall is common in malnourished or old horses. Edema of the muzzle may indicate an ill horse who is hanging their head.

More serious causes of edema are liver failure or exposure to stranglers or flu.

Swollen sheaths are common. This may be due to an accumulation of smegma but it often indicates low protein. A swelling between the front legs could be a serious infection from a certain bacteria, or could be from a kick or injury anywhere on the neck, the fluid settles at the lowest point. Swelling in just one leg may not be edema. It usually means an infection or injury to the affected leg.

So what if you notice edema on a trip? If your horse appears totally normal, eating, drinking, and perky, and most importantly if the edema goes down after 20 min of walking they should be ok. But for other cases call your veterinarian.

**Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.**





**MVBCH AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR**

**DATE TBD?? LOG OUT OF WILLIAMS LAKE TRAIL PRIOR TO THE WASHINGTON CONSERVATION CORP COMING AUGUST 4-11.** They are hired by us to do thread work on this trail. Contact to be determined.

**(THUR) AUG 4 POT LUCK + SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AT NORTH SUMMIT HORSE CAMPGROUND.** Meet at 5 pm at NSHC in the Picnic Shelter and bring your favorite dish to share for our pot luck dinner. We'll celebrate the NSHC after years of very hard work! Questions? Contact: Jan or Bill Ford: 509-997-0133 (President Cathy will be Out of Town but will return the day before the meeting and will attend.)

**(TUES) AUG 23 VOLUNTEER HOURS DUE.** Contact: Kay MacCready 509-293-1413.

## Just FYI...

If you don't have the ability to store enough hay to make testing it worthwhile - or you board your horse - why is mature grass hay a safer option?

Although feeding untested hay is always a risk, the safest option is to offer slow fed\* higher NDF (mature) hay with empty seed heads or grass hay straw (mature grass hay with the seed heads harvested) in addition to a limited amount of lower NDF (immature) hay. Your horse will eat the more palatable, lower NDF hay first and have his slow-fed higher NDF available to nibble on the rest of the time. The free choice forage benefits can prevent an array of adverse mental and physical conditions such as colic, ulcers, and stereotypies to name a few.

Hay Pillow Inc. 888-489-0022 Ramona, CA



*Many 'Thank Yous' to everyone who contributed photos and stories for our newsletter:  
Jan and Bill Ford, Cathy Upper, and Tina Weber.*

*The newsletter is a joint effort that we all contribute to.*

*One person can't do it without all of the feedback and information that our members  
provide, so keep it coming, please!*



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



Yep! The last one was so good that we're having another Pot Luck Picnic before our August meeting—please bring a dish to share!



### August Agenda

Enjoy a Pot Luck Picnic  
at 5pm in the Picnic shelter  
of NSHC followed  
by...

Trail Updates!

**Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**5 pm Pot Luck + Short Business Meeting  
@ North Summit Horse Campground (Picnic Shelter)**