



# MVBCH

# HORSE TALES

[BCHW.ORG](http://BCHW.ORG)

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**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



Cathy Upper

Hello folks, hard to keep the calendar during the summer! Don't know if I'm coming or going and where to plug in. Sounds like we have a good crew coming out to the Twisp River Horse Camp work party on June 25th.

Plans are going ahead for finishing the gravel project on West Fork of the Buttermilk trail. Allen Jircik is getting the bridge at Beaver creek happening and other projects are still being planned.

Try to ride the Twisp River Trail and see how the new brushing work looks—it's a cool place to ride in the heat.

We are planning a Pot Luck Picnic before our July 7th meeting at Twisp Park. We'll plan on starting the picnic at about 5 pm so bring something you'd like to share with the other members and we'll update everyone on our trail work afterwards at our business meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone! Cathy



Thanks to Our Volunteers

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### Need trails information? Help is here!

\*\*\* Allen Jircik, the new Methow Trails Collaborative trails manager, said he will be a source of information about trail work that is needed or is being done; he will send out regular reports. If an MVBCH member wants to know about what work is needed on a particular trail or what condition a particular trail is in, Allen will have current information from various groups and the USFS available, and you can contact him via his email:

[allenj@trailscollaborative.org](mailto:allenj@trailscollaborative.org)



## MVBCH JUNE 2, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Members in Attendance: Cathy Upper, Sue Elson, Jackie Iddings, Betty Wagoner, Mary McHugh, Allen Sireik, Bennet Upper, Jane Byram, Ann Port, Jan Ford, Bill Ford, Mark Brantner.

### Minutes:

Members present introduced ourselves to Allen Sireik, new Methow Trails Collaborative trails manager.

Mary McHugh reported that there was a successful trail cleaning event at Wolf Creek Trail (see more below under "trail work party reports"). However, she wants all members to be aware of the possible difficulties of loose dogs on the trails. There was some discussion of the legalities of loose and unlicensed dogs on public lands and she offered further reading for those interested. Just a reminder to all that common sense should prevail when dealing with animals.

Kay Mccready has reported more than 815 hours were turned in for work on Spring Ride.

Bennet Upper says that income for the Spring Ride was comparable to past years. We also will be spending some money in conjunction with the trail work of the WCC for 8 days in the first week of August.

Expecting sawyer training in June.

There will be a work party on June 25 at TRHC to clean up nuisance trees. 47 trees larger than 7 inches have been marked by USFS. Bill Ford reports that Dennis Jones took a look at possible solutions and says that if members can cut and pile debris in areas accessible to his excavator, he can move them to bigger piles for winter burning. Betty moved that we allocate up to \$2500 for Jones. This was 2nd and passed, but it was noted that USFS must approve and clarify the plan first.

Bill reports that at NSHC Pete is working with Rosemary Siegfried of USFS to pay Jeff McHugh for work on water system installation expected to take place in early July. It is not expected to cost MVBCH anything. Rosemary also has \$ to cover the cost of moving burn pile/root wads. MVBCH has kept up on removing nuisance trees and these can also go on the burn pile. There are also new signs including 2 that clarify "for stock users only"

### Trail work party reports:

Jason Ridlin's crew up Wolf Cr. made it about 5 miles (past scree slope), but it still needs tread work. Maybe crew from Williams Lake project?

TRT is cut out entirely (by MVBCH) and mt. bike crew is continuing to brush it out (now up to War Cr).

North Lk, Twisp Pass, Scatter and South CR are all logged out to wilderness boundaries by MVBCH.

Lewis Lake bridge project (located within wilderness area) is on hold so lumber for decking needs to be moved for longer term storage. USFS Landon says there are trees suitable for stringers near the site.

South Cr trail reroute through Cramer's private holding will be flagged soon.

Cost of decking for Lighting Cr bridge replacement project will be covered by USFS, and Allen is negotiating with Jess Darwood to pack it in to the site. He asked if MVBCH is willing to cover this cost and Bill moved that we pay up to \$2000 for this. This motion was 2nd and passed.

### Other reports:

National Trails Day June 4 at 8 am at Bill's for work on a couple of problems stretches on TRT.

Cathy reminds us that Heidi Weston will be cutting out Johns trail on Wed June 8.

Betty will organize W

TA thank you pot luck for Wed June 22 at Poplar Flat.

If anyone has metal box(es) to hold old copies of War Cr cabin registry/journals they would be appreciated, they also need a ride up to the cabin (which reportedly once again has a log on it and needs some repair).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue Elson, Secretary.



# "Whistle, Grin, and Ride."

Ray Hunt



## For Sale!!

*Hand tooled Crates  
saddle*

*Like new condition!!*



Quarter horse bars  
with a 16 inch seat

**Asking**

**\$1200.00**



Contact Donna Stoothoff:  
509-429-7525

[dstoothoff@centurytel.net](mailto:dstoothoff@centurytel.net)



### **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)



## Trail Ride to the Methow River across from Big Valley



On June 8th member Heidi Weston—seen here in the orange shirt—guided riders from her home on Lucky Jim Lane near Mazama and riding across the Wolf Creek Road access trails to a Methow River spot across from Big Valley. Great weather—great fun!

Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Louis Lake Trail Alert

### Louis Lake Trail Bridge

The trail bridge across South Creek on the #428 Louis Lake trail is past its service life due to severely rotten stringers. The bridge is closed due to safety concerns and we cannot recommend its use.

Currently there is no good ford option, especially during high water. Our trail crew has plans to safely decommission the bridge once the high water goes down.

We plan to replace the bridge and ask the public to remain patient as we have many other projects ongoing.



# North Summit Horse Campground (NSHC)

The Forest Service installed the new NSHC entrance sign on May 31st.

New official FS sign for Campground →

On June 9th FS set up and displayed 'Campground Open for Fee'. (See Picture of fees notice on the FS Information Board).



Members of MVBCH also put up signs at NSHC in June. These included a large brown sign at the entrance stating that the campground was designed for stock users. Kurt and Julie Hensley were camping at NSHC when we were working on this sign and Kurt came and gave a hand while Julie was out riding. There are a few more signs to be put up.

Putting up signs near entrance. (L-R) Kurt Hensley, Bill Ford and Sue Elson ↑

New signs at Day Area →

In July work should start on the horse water system, most of the materials for this have already been purchased.



# North Summit Horse Campground (cont.)



Signs going up at the entrance to the NSHC.  
Bill Ford and Sue Elson



Signs at the entrance to the NSHC.

# Twisp River Horse Campground Cleanup

This is the Twisp River Horse Campground before our work party on June 25th.



Some members volunteered a few days ahead of the work party to assess how this project could be best approached.



## Twisp River Horse Campground Cleanup (cont.)

On the day of the work party — Saturday, June 25 — we were very happy to have the great turnout of 23 members, all willing to take on the challenge of cleaning up a campground that had experienced severe damage from some very nasty fires! Thanks to everyone for contributing some very hard work and a very long day!



Everyone who had joined in this challenge was actively engaged with something to do or something to fix or helping someone else do something!

## Twisp River Horse Campground Cleanup (cont.)

Later in the day it was lunch time and President Cathy took care of roasting the sausages while those who brought pot luck lunch foods set the tables. A good meal, a bit of a rest, and then some went back to finish the day by continuing to work the campground! Thanks to all who stepped up to this project and made it a success!





## MVBCH JULY/AUGUST 2022 CALENDAR

**(MON) JUL 4 ANNUAL "4TH OF JULY PARADE" IN TWISP WA.** Parade begins at 11:00.

**(THUR) JULY 7 5 PM POT LUCK AT TWISP PARK WITH SHORT BUSINESS MEETING AFTER.**  
Contact: Cathy Upper 509-429-2955. Please bring your favorite Pot Luck Picnic dish to share.

**(FRI-MON) JUL 1-4 HOT SHOT WORK PARTY #1.** Contact: Jason Ridlon 509-964-9260.

**(SUN-FRI) JUL 17-22 HOT SHOT WORK PARTY #2.** Contact: Jason Ridlon 509-964-9260.

**JULY 20, 24 & 29** Connie Mehmel is looking for someone to pack her into Spanish camp (Forest Service might be able to do this), move her from Spanish camp to Pygmy Basin and then pack her out Billy Goat on these 3 dates. She is doing a white-bark pine survey in the Pasayten wilderness.

**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 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING** 5 p.m. @ TwispWorks Park. Contact: Cathy Upper 509-429-2955.

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

### ABOUT BARN FIRES...

According to the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Structure Fires in Barns, just under 1,100 fires occur every year in barns and stables. The four leading causes of fires in agricultural storage facilities are heating equipment at 21% (with heat lamps being the largest portion of that, followed by heaters); electrical distribution (wiring) or lighting equipment at 14%; arson at 7%; and lightning at 5%. Sixty-seven (67%) of all barn fires result in the destruction of the entire barn. Remember, if you discover a fire in your barn, call 9-1-1 before doing anything else. You should only attempt to fight a fire if it is small and contained and only if you have a clear path behind you to escape that is free of fire. A fire doubles in size every 60 seconds. If the fire has spread beyond the early stages, it is time to evacuate the barn.

*Thank you to everyone who contributes photos and stories for our newsletter — 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



We'll have a Pot Luck Picnic at the meeting so please bring your favorite dish to share!



### July Agenda

Enjoy a Pot Luck Picnic at 5pm followed by...

Trail Updates!

(Contact President Cathy if you have a topic to add)

**Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**5 pm Pot Luck + Short Business Meeting (after)**  
**@ TWISP PARK**  
**Twisp, WA**