

The Trailhead News

Vol. 50 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2025

1st Place at the 24th Annual BCHW Winery Ride



www.bchw.org



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Photo by Jim Thode

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

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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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
Lifetime Members		Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR
Mitch Baird	IND	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Robert Humes	PCC
Scott Bauer	CHC	Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Julie & John Lundy	FRC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Paul Mellick	RRR
Penelope Booker	IND	Sherrie Elliott	NEC	Bob & Rani Merz	MAC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Robert Eversole	NEC	Daren Moorman	PSR
Caleb Canby	MVC	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Kris Moran	GHC
Tawney Carrier	PSR	Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC	Sheila Richards	NEC
Janis Collett	PCC	Mary Kane	TAH	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Steven & Carol Crapson	CCR	Lorraine Karmen	CHC	Harold Rosenbach & Cindy McAlpin	GHC
Missy Day	TAH	Bill Kehner	IND	Carol & James Russo	TDC
David Jackson	PSR	Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BRC	David Smith	TAH
Kris Lenke	BHR	Jennifer & Terry Maestas		Craig Volosing & Karen Stevenson	PON
Lori Lennox	GHC	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Joan & Ben Wildman	PNC
Kim Merrick	NSC	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Sonja Wingard & James Matthies	WCC
Heather Moorman	PSR	Al & Marci Norrbom	WEN	Kathy Young	TA
Jason Ridlon	IND	Jeanette & John O'Keefe			
Kathy Russo	IND	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC		
Samantha Sandford	MSH	Kathleen Parshall	TAH		
John Scherrer	CHC	Drew & Rachel Scott	CCR		
Dave Seibel	MOC	Lynda Stafford	SCR		
Bob Shonka	IND	Michael Torok	MVC		
Teri Starke	IND	Larry & Felicia Wachtel	IND		
Cathy Upper	MVC	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
Barbara Woo	CHC	Brenda & Greg Wiebe	MAC		
Pat Wyers	MAC	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC		
		JoAnn Yost	GHC		
2025 Benefactor Level		2025 Contributing Level			
Dale & Tina Merton	LCC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC		
2025 Patron Level		Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
Christina Cline	MVC	Carol & David Bainter	GHC		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Gene Brent	TAH		
Dale & Tina Merten		Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH		
Bob Showalter	RRR	Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		
Heather Spencer	PNC	Sue and Greg Duffy	RRR		
Nancy Wiest	PCC	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
Bonnie Witrak	TAH	Clay & Allyson Forenpohar	WEN		
2025 Sustaining Level		Bruce & Gigi Hiebert	TAH		
Sheila & Bud Blakely	NEC	Toni Hoover	PSR		
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH				

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

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. ➡

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.



President's Corner



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

Well, the 2025 Winery Ride is in the books, whew, what a weekend it was. I was only there for a few hours during setup, but did not stay this year. I was notified about some of the happenings, however! All was going well until Friday evening, when a major wind event caused damage, loose horses, and chaos in the Prize Tent, the BCHW Store, and at the Registration tent. Rider packets blew to Walla Walla; raffle tickets that had been placed in buckets by participants were blown away. Volunteers worked hard to track down as many tickets as possible, Rider packets were gathered, and the store

Chapters are holding elections for 2026 officers, so please consider stepping up and running for a position within your chapter.

was put back together. I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who worked hard to get things straightened out and organized.

Next up is the 2026 Rendezvous! The dates of the event have changed for next year. The weekend will be April 24-26th. We have been working on plans and changes, and hope to have reservations open by December 1st. For our chapters, please consider what your chapter would like to do, such as sponsoring an event or teaching a class. We really need ev-

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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.

Did You Know

Grants – What you should know

- BCHW averages about \$225,000 per year in trail maintenance grants.
- The planning process usually takes about 3 years from plan to funding.
- BCHW's Grant Committee oversees the entire process and reallocates funding as appropriate when necessary.
- BCHW contracts with two members to do the paperwork.
- Currently, only 7 BCHW chapters have grant allocations.
- BCHW Trail Operations oversees grant-supported trail work in 6 National Forests in Washington.
- BCHW has to provide "Match" in order to use our grant funds. We often have to provide \$2 Match for every dollar we spend.
- Match can be cash, volunteered hours of trail work, mileage, etc.

Vice President's Corner



Chapter Leadership

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

I just came in from a ride where I got caught in the rain. Rain is very unusual on the east side, so I took it as a sign that I should be at the computer writing this article.

All chapter elections should be completed by now. These are the people who will set the direction the chapters will take. But it goes much further than that.

Equally important are the members who step up to help the elected leaders. These are the committee members who get a lot of the work done. Additionally, these individuals will someday assume major leadership roles.

The BCH goal is to keep trails open. There are two ways to do this. As individuals, people can do some trail work and write a letter. However, to be truly successful, it requires an organization like BCH. We have more influence on the trail, in education, and in advocating with the powers that be. Unfortunately, this organization requires people to support those on the front lines doing the trail work, education, and advocacy.

Please contact your chapter president to inquire about how you can help maintain open trails. Remember, it is not all shov-

els and chainsaws. There are many opportunities to volunteer that require other skills, talents, interests and abilities. Opportunities can vary depending on the commitment you must make. Please give your president a break and volunteer.

Please contact your chapter president to inquire about how you can help maintain open trails.

Another thing the general membership can do is attend the chapter meetings. These are great educational and social opportunities. It is also where planning can take place. For your chapter to attract interesting guest speakers, it needs people to fill the seats. Please take an evening and join fellow members at the meetings.

There are many resources to help BCH leadership. They can be found on the BCHW website. Some are requirements that we all must follow, and others are just good ideas. Please be familiar with those that apply to your responsibilities.

The strength of BCH is in its ACTIVE members. 🐾

Happy Trails and REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026 NOW

President's Corner

continued from page 3

everyone to be on deck to put this event on. For our Chapter Directors, the good news is that we will not be holding our 1st QTR Board Meeting on Friday night. However, we will still hold the meeting on Saturday, March 21st, 2026.

Chapters are holding elections for 2026 officers, so please consider stepping up and running for a position within your chapter. If you are not aware, all our chapters have requirements to continue to be a chapter. These requirements are to have four office positions filled, which include President, Director, Financial Officer, and Secre-

tary. If you or your chapter have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Lastly, BCHW Leadership will also hold elections in June. The positions that need to be filled are President, Vice President, three Executive Committee Directors (who must be current Directors), one National Director, and one Alternate National Director. If you are interested in running for an officer position, please reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Jeff Chapman, bbbranch@olympus.net 🐾



Greetings To All You Photographers Out There In The World Of BCHW!

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

Thank you to those who sent in photos for the 2026 calendar year and all the years prior. Without your contributions, we wouldn't have a calendar at all.

I'm asked all the time about what can and can't be included in a photograph for submission, so I thought it would be helpful for everyone if I created a list.

I'm going to start with the no-no's so anything else is wide open for submission!

- If your picture has kids in it and they are on a horse, they need to be wearing a helmet and be one kid per horse if they are out on the trail. In the backyard on a lead line, mom's hanging onto – if you can get six kids on that super patient pony, go for it! - but on the trail or at sanctioned events, we need one per pony, please.
- If you are out in the high country and your horse is in the middle of the lake – I have no way of knowing right off if you are swimming in a lake you're supposed to be paddling about in or if you are committing the sin of ignoring the Wilderness Act of 1964 which states in most cases horses must be kept a minimum of 200 ft from lakeshores. Overall, it's best not to send me any lake shots with your horses up to their knees in the water, please.

- If you are on a trail crew and helping out - thank you for your time and effort! - but are you wearing the proper PPE for the task you are being pictured in? Is that excavator really supposed to be in the middle of that river? Are you in a wilderness area with a no-chainsaw ban? Better keep those shots for your own private album.

- Between-the-ears shots are awesome, but unfortunately, they usually pan out in a portrait shape, and I need to have landscape shapes – so if you can get a gorgeous wide vista between those ears instead of a narrow corridor - send me those photos!

Those four things are the most significant ongoing issues I have with submissions, and hopefully, this will help to remedy that. It is also helpful to save your photos with a brief description of who, where, and what, such as "Joe R on Bob at muddy meadows.jpg."

Thank you again for all your great contributions, the time you spend out on the trail working and playing, and I look forward to seeing your photos for the 2027 Calendar! Don't wait until the last minute to send them in – email them to me at bchwpix@gmail.com when you get home from your great trip to bchwpix@gmail.com. 🐾

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire 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

2025 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. Nominations are due by February 1, 2026 and will be awarded at Rendezvous in April. There are so many deserving BCHW members that should receive one of these awards. If your Chapter does not have a nominating committee for Awards, please put it on the agenda for your next meeting. I am more than happy to assist you with your nominations. In addition, BCHW appreciates donations from individuals and Chapters for these awards. For more information and to see past award winners, please visit the Awards page at bchw.org/programs/awards.

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT This award is for the BCHW member or couple who has shown a lifetime of dedication to BCHW by actively pursuing and promoting the organization and the BCHW Mission Statement in a variety of ways. This award is for recognition, not a contest.
Lifetime = 1, max 2 awarded

LOPPER AWARD This award is for a BCHW member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to their chapter or to BCHW by participation and promotion of what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. This is kind of an “all around” award, with the nominee being active in several different aspects of the many things that make up BCHW.
Lopper = 3, max 4 awarded

CAMP COOK This award is for the BCHW member who willingly keeps the campfires burning and the kettles hot and full of delicious food to share with others. Whether it is at meetings, work parties or social functions, they are in the kitchen making sure all are well fed.
Camp Cook = 1 awarded

TRAIL WARRIOR This person may not make all the chapter functions or even own a computer, but they are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails.
Trail Warrior = 3, max 4 awarded

DESK JOCKEY This person is one of the behind-the-scenes people, always at a computer or running from meeting to meeting. They keep the wheels of our organization turning.
Desk Jockey = 2, max 3 awarded



JUNIOR BCHW Our future! Who stands out in your chapter? This person would participate in chapter events such as work parties, fund raisers, LNT/education, training or BCHW promotion such as parades.
Junior BCH = 1, max 2 awarded

BACKBONE This award is to recognize that special member who is always there when needed, ready and willing to do some special job that no one else can or will do, sometimes at the last minute. This is a member who is very important in keeping the chapter, organization or an event operating smoothly.
Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

CINCH AWARD The BCHW Board of Directors nominates this award and the President nominates five directors to make the selection. It was created to recognize those hard-working BCHW members who have consistently and competently carried out jobs at the state level, year after year. Recipients shall be Volunteer Committee Chairmen, Volunteer Committee member, or an UN-ELECTED state officer - they keep the wheels of this great organization running smoothly. They may or may not be very visible - they may be quietly working in the background, reliably doing their jobs. They may or may not be active or hold an office in a chapter or even be a chapter member, but they are invaluable at the state level.
Cinch Award = 1, max 2 awarded

PRESIDENT'S DIAMOND AWARD The BCHW President awards a person or persons “In recognition of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW mission”. The President's Diamond Award is decided autonomously from the BCHW Awards Program.
President's Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded

SPONSORSHIPS Thank you to all the Chapters and Harbor Saw for your sponsorships. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in nineteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. Please encourage you, your chapter or businesses to support the BCHW Award Program for one or more of the award categories. Also remember that with our 501(c3) there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2025 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

Lifetime Achievement	_____	Desk Jockey	_____
Lopper Award	_____	Junior BCHW	_____
Camp Cook	_____	Backbone Award	_____
Trail Warrior	_____		

Nominees' Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Information to include in your nomination presentation:

- In 75 words or less, give an opening statement telling why this person is deserving of special, statewide recognition for this specific award.
- Then separately, on as many pages as you need, create a presentation detailing WHY this person should receive this award.
- Chapters this person has belonged to and for how long
- Positions or job titles this person has held
- An estimate of his or her volunteer hours (Chapter Vol Hour Chairs can help with this)
- Awards this person has won
- Trails or camps this person has worked on
- A little family history
- Include anything which will make your nominee stand out! (Letters of recommendation from land managers, news clippings, photos, etcetera.)

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

Mail nomination forms with your presentation via the US Post Office to: BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Susan Sundahl
15188 Stevens Rd. S.E. Olalla, WA 98359
Questions: pappihorse@wavecable.com or 253-380-0343

Must be received before February 1, 2026

Winding Up the Trail Season — With Paperwork

Anonymous

As BCHW chapters and Volunteer crews wrap up trail work for the year—before the snow starts to fall—it’s worth taking a moment to appreciate an often-overlooked group of trail heroes: the paperwork pros. “People don’t always realize how much effort goes into the paperwork behind every project,” says Grant Committee member and Black Pines crew leader Barb Talbot. “Without it, the grants, hours, and reports that keep BCHW’s trail program running wouldn’t happen.” Long-time member Deb Wesselius is a perfect example. For years, she has chaired the Volunteer Hours Committee, working at the State Level, consolidating various Chapters’ Field Sheets with precision and dedication. Previously, she also managed the volunteer reporting for the Lewis

County Chapter. Since her move from Lewis County, Emily Snell and Cathy Karniss have stepped up to carry that torch. In the Northeast Chapter, Trail Work Boss Karl Crotty is learning the ropes of paperwork with help from Grant Committee Chair Darrell Wallace. On the Peninsula, the Grey Wolves count on Becca Wanagel and Jen Bond, while Tina Short keeps things running smoothly for the Wolverines, who work primarily in the Methow Ranger District and Umatilla National Forest. Of course, there are many more unsung heroes we haven’t named here. If someone in your chapter quietly keeps the forms, reports, and submissions flowing—take a moment to thank them. The trail might end in the woods, but the work doesn’t end until the paperwork’s done. 🐾

BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

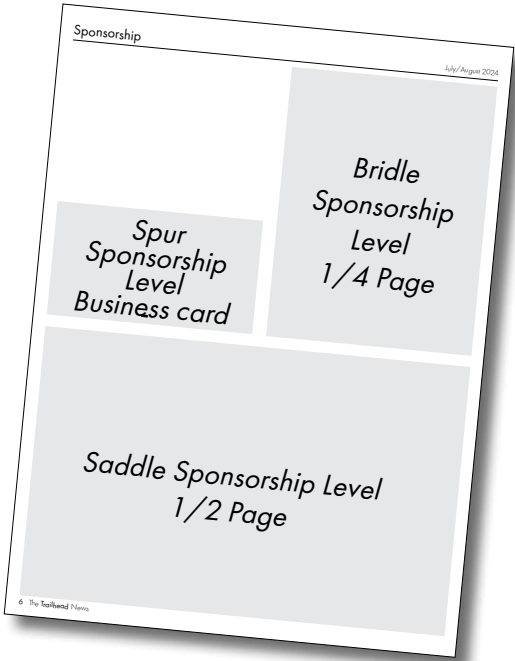
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

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
Spur \$500	• Business card-size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events
Bridle \$1000	• Quarter-page listing in our 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired)
Saddle \$5000	• Half-page listing in all 6 editions of The Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events. • Booth at our statewide events (if desired) • Posts on BCHW Facebook page



Contact president@bchw.org for more information

Sloan Creek Horse Corrals



By Kambria Schwalen, Traildusters BCHW Chapter

The Traildusters BCHW chapter has been working on renovating the Sloan Creek Horse corrals and equestrian access so that there can be a backcountry option in the Pacific Northwest region. The corrals are in good shape now! There was a rotten post that two strong men spent a whole day digging up because it was cemented in, and then replaced it and some boards, and we scraped off all the old lichen and re-stained it.

We also weed-whacked the camping area. There are some nice camping options at the trailhead. Hampton Lumber donated a picnic table to us for the horse parking area, and it came in handy after our ride along the North Fork trail. The road is in perfect condition and was fixed up by a contractor this spring.

Trails from the corrals include North Fork Sauk, which offers an easy day ride. The 11-mile route leads to the Mackinaw shelter and back through an old-growth forest with lush vegetation. It gets worked on annually by WTA.



If you want to explore further, you can continue up to White Pass, which offers amazing views of glaciated peaks, green hills, and abundant wildflowers. This trail is the primary PCT access between Highway 2 and Steheiken, so it is an annual priority for the Forest Service to have it cleared and stocked. The other Trail option for an easy day ride is Bald Eagle with a turnaround point at Curry Gap. There are two unique waterfalls along the route, offering views of Monte Cristo and Sloan Peak. Up to the Curry Gap, it follows an old mining road. Not many people use this trail, so there are trees down right now.

Darrington has a lot of big trees with complex binds and I need some Sawyer help for these. For packing options, you can continue past Curry Gap up Bald Eagle to Blue Lake and/or white pass. The Bald Eagle trail would be considered an advanced trail after the Curry Gap junction.



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Thanks For The Memories

By Patti & Ken Carmichael

After 10 years, Ponderosa Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington is saying adios. Chartered on December 5, 2015, with 20 members, we set out with a focus to support Spokane and Vicinity's equestrian community.

A huge THANK YOU to all our members and volunteers, both past and present, for all your hard work and dedication. Ponderosa couldn't have accomplished what we did without your support.

From the lofty Mt. Spokane to the high desert landscapes of Rock Creek Recreation Area (The Escure Ranch) and all in between, our members and volunteers gave up their blood, sweat and tears in support of our local equestrians and land managers. During these 10 years, we labored on the trails and enhanced many of our trailheads and horse camps. Our work involved dirt moving, wire pulling, manure bunker building and installing corrals. We repaired and maintained the arena and obstacle course at Riverside State Park, installed hitching rails and mounting blocks at various trailheads, and installed gravel at a trailhead parking lot.

To support our trail efforts, we hosted our annual Scavenger Hunts and Poker Rides, gave presentations on Front Country Trailhead Camping, Me and My Horse, Developing the Trail Horse event, and many other educational classes. In support of our members, we hosted a Survival class, First Aid Trainings, Spring Fling social, and enjoyed a variety of interesting guest speakers at our membership meetings.

Our members were also active at the State BCH level, participating in the annual Rendezvous event by entering photo contests and Dutch oven cooking competitions, and by



sponsoring guest speakers. We donated our time, money and gift baskets to various other BCH statewide fundraisers and sent representatives to the annual Legislative Day in Olympia, WA.

As for Ken and Patti, we will greatly miss everyone we have come to know throughout the past 10 years. The camaraderie, partnerships, and friendships built over the years with the people, our equine partners and our community will always hold a special place in our hearts and memories. 🐾

All the best to everyone, and HAPPY TRAILS!

Sloan Creek Horse Corrals

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The Forest Service has added no-parking signs at the North Fork trailhead (Sloan Creek Campground and corrals) to free up the pinch points for trailers. If you do bring a larger rig on a Friday, bring enough food for you and your horse until Sunday afternoon, just in case you have to park in the middle of the road until the backpackers get back from parking illegally at pinch points. Be prepared to do that for any Forest Service stock access trailhead in the Northwest region.

We need young people to join the Backcountry Horsemen. Still, it is extremely challenging to access any actual backcountry trails on weekends when working and school-age indi-

viduals are available to ride them. Hannegan Pass, Park Butte, Cutthroat Pass via PCT during larches, Bridge Creek TH into Steheiken, Excelsior, even Blanchard and Lake Padden. We have some of the most beautiful riding in the country!

There really needs to be some horse trailer parking and maneuverability on the weekends so that young people can have access, especially if the Backcountry Horseman wants to continue the legacy with the younger generation. I urge our elders to intentionally utilize these backcountry trails and horse camps on weekends, so that stock access can be restored for our next generation of riders and packers. 🐾

2025 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest

By Barb Thomas, Winery Chair

Before this year's event began, I knew I wanted to tell a story focused on volunteers. This year's event was a testament to how BCHW volunteers can come together and accomplish almost anything.

This year, we had 115 volunteers from 17 chapters. They represented more than half of the state chapters working together in Zillah, WA, to raise money for BCHW, and continue this event in its 24th year.

Earlier in the year, we asked for more volunteers to set up camp on Thursday, and we got what we wished for. The tents, tables, chairs, lighting and other infrastructure were set up in record time. The new Ellensburg chapter set up their registration tent, Terri Crawford's BCHW store was stocked, the cooking crew organized under Robin Faulk, prizes sorted and labeled under Judy Smith and other things on the "To Do" list were completed before we headed out for dinner.

On Friday, everyone was ready to park and greet the 300+ riders who had booked camp sites at base camp. This year, we offered a mobile "water truck" that carried 110 gallons of water to camp sites. This was a great hit with the campers, who would

usually have to carry buckets and containers to the single water station available. Claire Fisher and Kimberly Miller, who crewed the truck, were the stars of the show for many thirsty horses. Everything was looking good in the evening...until...

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PHOTO BY BARB THOMAS



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

Thank You to the Participating Wineries:

Tanjuli Winery
Bonair Winery
Paradisos del Sol and Organic Vineyard
Whitman Hills Winery
Two Mountain Winery
Knight Hill Winery
Hyatt Winery
Dineen Winery
Velen Winery
Silver Lake Winery
Van Arnem Winery

Winery Ride Sponsor:





2025 BCHW Winery Ride and



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



Halloween Costume Contest



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

Graywolf Trail Crew Joins Peninsula Chapter

By Rebecca Wanagel, Graywolf Trail Crew leader

With great excitement, I would like to announce that the Graywolf Trail Crew has become a program within the Peninsula Chapter of BCHW, thereby formalizing an already-great partnership of several years.

The Graywolf Trail Crew does volunteer trail work primarily in the Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park. We have a different role in each of those landowners.

Olympic National Forest:

Volunteer trail crews maintain all of the ONF trails. ONF relies 100% on volunteers for trail maintenance because it has no budget for a trail crew. Were it not for volunteers, there would be no trails left in the ONF. Several groups are doing this vital work. We are one of them. A set number of trails are assigned to us, and we have informally adopted a few others because they appeared to be getting sporadic or no maintenance.

Olympic National Park:

The ONP has a highly skilled trail crew and incredible packers. Therefore, our niche is to help keep trails on the map that

paid crews can't reach. We've done maintenance on many miles of deep backcountry or frontcountry trails that could otherwise be deteriorating. Basically, we help pick up the trail needs that were deferred due to budgeting, time, or staffing constraints, or a combination of all three.

Our work in both the ONF and ONP takes this hearty group literally all over the peninsula. And we always keep stock standards in mind, trying to keep trails open to stock if they are rated as such.

Please enjoy perusing the Graywolf website at www.graywolftrailcrew.org if you haven't already. There, you can sign up for crews. You will also see a page (called "Where We Work") that shows

what we've done for each trail: lots of picture-filled summary reports. If you've missed some reports or want to re-read them, you can always find them on our website.

The Graywolf Crew is proud to be an official program of the Peninsula Chapter, which is known, among other accomplishments, for its active role in keeping trails open and for its long-term success in securing RTP grants. Both groups, now united, are excited about this joining of forces. Together we are stronger for trails. 🐾

The Graywolf Trail Crew does volunteer trail work primarily in the Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park.

2025 Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest

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At around 6:15 PM on Friday, the weather changed, and a mini tornado charged through camp. Metal pens went flying, seven horses were loose, pop-ups were destroyed, and registration packets and raffle tickets flew along with cardboard boxes, flyers, and more. Volunteers scrambled to protect what they could. Tables and chairs were laid down in case the wind came up again. By now it is dark, and we didn't know if the wind would hit again. We called it a night and gave the "all hands on deck" for the crack of dawn. By 7 AM on Saturday, all volunteers had arrived, and the camp was set up again within two hours.

When you think the worst is over, I receive a phone call that Darrell Wallace was rear-ended and hurt on his way back from dropping off a trailer at a winery. Within minutes, several people

were hooked up and on their way to the scene to check on Darrell and retrieve his ATV, as Darrell was being taken to the hospital. Other volunteers tore down his tent, packed up his gear, and when Darrell got back to camp, he was driven home by Roy Varney.

The BCHW Winery ride is not just about raising money for BCHW and the chapters. In addition to the Rendezvous, this event presents a rare opportunity for many chapter members to come together and recognize that we belong to a great state organization whose members share a common goal and have a great time working together, whether that is on the trails or at a statewide event. To each and every one of you who helped this year, we can't thank you enough. 🐾

PHOTO BY BARB THOMAS



PHOTO BY BARB THOMAS



Rendezvous 2026 Ideas Needed!

By Teri Starke

I must thank the members who attended the general membership meeting at the 2025 Rendezvous and suggested moving Rendezvous later in the year! The board of directors agreed with that suggestion: Rendezvous 2026 and future Rendezvous' will be held on the 4th weekend in April! The 2026 Rendezvous is April 24-26, 2026. Other ideas that members have suggested:

1. Having a prize at the end of the live auction that is available to those present who have bought a dinner ticket: Midstate Co-op has donated a new Traeger pellet grill for the prize at the 2026 Rendezvous.
2. Line dance lessons and dance: the Armory will host the event on Friday night. It is free for members, and non-members pay \$10 each. Kids are welcome, and there will be concessions and an open bar.
3. For the entire event, provide a room host for each room used at the BCHW Rendezvous. Great idea—we are looking for room host volunteers.

Give us your ideas to see if we can make them work at BCHW's Rendezvous!

We have been busy scheduling demos and clinicians. So far, we have the following coming to 2026 Rendezvous.

- The used tack sale will be in the draft horse barn.
- Luft's trailer is sponsoring PSR's truck-and-trailer rodeo in the Bloom.
- Several chapters, led by Barb Thomas, will be at the Bloom Annex on Friday and Saturday, putting on clinics similar to those at the Clark County Saddle Club.
- Jay Adams will talk about packing on Friday and Saturday.
- Trail Meister is coming back in 2026.
- Packing Contest will be on the grass across from the Bloom on Saturday from noon to 3:30 pm.
- Rendezvous 2026 logo wear will be for sale online, with registrations to pick up at Rendezvous. The supply of logo wear at Rendezvous will be limited.

We have several other events in the process of being scheduled. Please get in touch with me if you want to see something we haven't had at Ronde, or if you or your chapter wants to sponsor an event—we are always open to options and ideas!

As always, we do need more help at Rendezvous, room hosts, parking to spell Daren so he has some breaks and an emcee to announce events on the outdoor speaker system. Please get a hold of me if you can help, Teri Starke, 253-709-5052 🐾



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

Content Deadline for the January/February 2026 Print Newsletter is December 1, 2025

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

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.

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2026
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

25th Annual Winery Ride & Halloween Costume Contest

Saturday, October 31, 2026
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com
for Sign-up and additional information, visit:
www.bchw.org/

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2026
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2026 Rendezvous

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26, 2026
Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg, WA
treasurer@bchw.org

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 thn@bchw.org.

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 _____

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

April 18: First day of National Park Week

June 19: Juneteenth

August 3: Great American Outdoors Act Signing Day

September 26: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

