Spring 2022

# **Trail Crafters News**



Olympic Peninsula, Washington



Frosty Moss Relay Exchange Station Feb. 26, 2022

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c)(3) organization with 31 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resoutce agencies.

#### Special Interest Articles

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PENINSULA CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON PO Box 451, Carlsborg, WA 98324 visit us on FB <u>peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com</u>

Peninsula Chapter's New Website: <u>www.pbchw.org</u> (New photos, maps, past Newsletters, Calendar, and other information are being added frequently.)

Upcoming Events: Apr. 20 Zoom Mtg & Program; May 14 "Rhody Ride" & Breakfast (There is a new Calendar on the website. Click the date of any event to see more.) Newsletter Editor: Donna Hollatz jdhollatz@gmail.com

### President's Message - April 2022

Spring is officially here and along with the tulips and daffodils comes the rain and the mud. Spring heralds our renewed commitment to getting both the horse and rider in shape for the trail riding season. It also means our FIRST in-person chapter meeting on May 18. While zoom meetings work, there is nothing like gathering together as a group. Our May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Sequim Community Church (7pm, 905 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sequim) and will feature our own Tom Mix who will present a program on "So you want to ride in the Olympics . . ."

The Chapter is forging ahead on many fronts. Linda Morin continues to tirelessly shepherd successful events and trail rides. Kim Merrick, along with a little help from her friends, has launched a major chapter fundraising event for September. Please see her article in the newsletter for details. Trail work, under the new system, continues to power ahead under the expert coordination of Rebecca Wanagel and her team, and Denise Hupfer's execution of the chapter's financial processes keeps the chapter in the black. But let us not forget, the detailed effort of Suzanne King to keep track of all of our volunteer hours and Donna Hollatz's word smithing of our statewide recognized newsletter. The Chapter is so much more than the work of the few. Rather it is the concerted effort of all of you, beginning with sending in your membership that makes the Peninsula Chapter one of the strongest in the state.

Speaking of the STATE, there have been a lot of changes this past year with more to come in the relationship between the Chapter and the state. Change can bring questions and confusion. Therefore, I felt it would be beneficial to invite the new president of BCHW to meet and greet all of us and present the vision and details of the new BCHW. Unlike last year, both BCHW and the Peninsula Chapter are experiencing a spurt of new members. This is an exciting time for BCHW to embrace change and forge ahead to meet the challenges that growth and change bring. OUR goal is not only to build membership, but also to sustain it for the long haul. Our plan is to involve as many members as possible in all aspects of the chapter's organization from trail work to baking cookies. If each member takes on just one job, then the chapter will be well positioned to carry on down many future miles of trail. Many are called and many are chosen.

Thank you and happy trails, Theresa

# **Salt Creek Trail is Finished**

March 8, 2022 - Rebecca Wanagel's WTA trail crew completed the Striped Peak Trail that they have been working on since 2019. It is 3.5 miles of brand new trail that connects with older trails to make a 7.5 mile loop that is open to equestrians, bicycles, and hikers. Eighty-five days, and more than 10,000 volunteer hours were spent on this construction. A few BCHW members tried their hand at trail building, too. It is hard work, but everyone involved is so PROUD of the work that was done. There is more information on our website (pbchw.org). The views are spectacular!



# Olympic Spirit Prize Ride by Kim Merrick, Vice President

### Prize Ride September 10th

#### **Some Basic Math Facts**

The Peninsula Chapter budget is about \$5,200 a year. We can get a lot of work done with this money; but we go in the hole every year by a couple thousand dollars. We are projected to bring in about \$2,700 this year. Most of our income comes from grants, of which we have 2 right now. Most of our other money comes from donations at events, such as Frosty Moss or the OAT Run. Our chapter is really good at getting grants, so that is wonderful, but it's hard to spend grant money on any activities that are not directly related to trail work on the ground. We do have a reserve fund that we dip into every year; but if we keep doing that, it will be gone in 3 or 4 years. So, we need a way to earn some money to balance our budget, grow and add to our education programs, and keep that reserve intact. We should be able to earmark that reserve for things like hiring a summer youth crew, a purchase of specialized equipment for events and trail work, host clinics and chapter programs, marketing and membership initiatives, or sending multiple members to Legislative Day, LNT Training at Randle, or Saw certification.

#### How to Move Forward

Our goal is to have a healthy, balanced budget. And, if possible, we want to do that with funds that don't come from just members.

We are planning a **prize ride** to supplement our trail work grants and help develop more educational activities. This event will also help more members be involved and feel like an integral part of Peninsula Chapter. It's called the 'Olympic Spirit' Prize Ride. This ride will be held at Layton Hill Horse Camp on September 10 (Our normal meeting and potluck will be held at Layton Hill on September 21). Participants will pay a fee to ride a 3-hour loop from Layton Hill. We will also have a drawing for prizes. Lunch will be available, and we will try to fill up the camping spots with out-of-town riders. Our goal is to raise \$3,000 to balance our budget.

How you can help:

- Donate a prize
- Help publicize our ride
- Participate in the ride
- Take on a job
  - Registration
  - Greeter/Hospitality
  - Publicity
  - Prize Wrangler
  - Parking
  - Horse Holder
  - Security
  - Bee Patrol
  - Trail Maintenance
  - Dinner Helper
  - Thank you letters

At our May meeting, we will be formalizing our plan, and have a signup sheet for members who want to help. If you have questions, please call or email me: Kim Merrick eloise55@gmail.com 253-262-6188

**Trail Crafters News** 

### BCHW Pumpkin-Patch Tack Sale Saturday, April 2, 2022

Thank You to Everyone who Donated Tack, Purchased Things from our Sale, and Worked at our Booth! It was a very successful endeavor!

### **Special Announcements:**

**General Membership Meeting:** Our next General Membership Meeting will be held by **ZOOM** on April 20 at 7pm. Our special program for that evening will be a presentation by Mark Rashid, author of several books that consider horse training with the horse's point of view being the highest consideration! We hope you can join us. An announcement and **link** will be sent to all members shortly before the start of the meeting.

# Chainsaw Instruction/Evaluation & Certification by Tom Mix

- Joint BCHW-WTA-EMBA Sawyer Instructor/Evaluator Certification Extravaganza, April 1-2-3, 2022 by Tom Mix

Who:

About 21 candidate sawyers met with BCHW, EMBA (Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance) and WTA (Washington Trail Association) I/Es (Evaluator/Instructor) to earn their initial or recertifications plus others were standing for level upgrades or seeking being designated a BCHW I/E. A few were dirt bike riders from the local VOLT (Volunteers on Lewis Trails) group. We all sat around the evening fire, heard incredible stories and learned that everyone there has the same goals and feelings – We all want to keep trails open for recreation and to saw safely.

What:

This event was designed to gather sawyers from different focus groups into one spot to conduct chain saw operations.

Goals:

Foster a safe learning environment.

Accomplish initial certifications,

Accomplish recertifications for B bucking, C bucking, C bucking and felling,

Identify Instructor/Evaluators for our partner groups WTA and EMBA

Rotate sawyers between different I/Es so the newer sawyers can learn skills and techniques Results:

18 initial bucking only certs were issued – 12 As with WTA, 2 As and 4 Bs with EMBA and VOLT. Recerts were issued to B and C sawyers.

3 sawyers with EMBA were designated as Instructor/Evaluator.

All sawyers got to saw with at least 2 different I/E over the duration of the event.

When:

This event was planned primarily by Tony Karniss (BCHW and Regional Program Instructor (RPI)), Alan Carter-Mortimer (WTA) and Shawn Lorenz (EMBA). Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles (representing both WTA & BCHA) were two of the 8 I/Es. All of the instructors and folks there to get certified were volunteers, joined together by a joint passion for keeping trails cleared. April 1-2-3, 2022 was selected.

Friday was scheduled for a few sawyers seeking advanced levels to go with a retired timber faller and select I/Es and RPI - Tom Mix. This group was joined by the Region 6 Saw Program Manager – Aaron Pederson. All the others remained at the center to attend and present the classroom portion of the initial certification.

Saturday and Sunday were reserved for the sawyers to be further instructed and evaluated by different I/Es. This provided a great learning environment and allowed candidates to experience different techniques for addressing typical situations found on trails.

Where:

Cispus Learning Center near Randle, Washington. The meeting room, bath and showers and camping location is a repurposed CCC work center. The local school district operates the site. There must have been about 100 junior and senior high school folks attending the grounds while we were away sawing things.

Why:

The overarching goal was for the sawyers to listen to and learn from the very senior sawyers in the group. Two of the BCHW Instructors/Evaluators were retired timber industry sawyers. The majority of those attending were about 45 or younger. When they gathered around the modest evening fire – there were comments about what were all these old guys doing here. When the engines started, they all soon realized who the teachers and who the students were.

(Continued on next page)

(Chainsaw Training - cont.)

At the Sunday afternoon closeout gathering – We thanked the attendees for participating. Comments from the attendees were very appreciative, thoughtful, and they all wanted more of these events in the future. They really liked the part where they got to saw for different instructors and learn from each.

Everyone thanked us for the experience and that they each learned a whole lot. One woman thanked us all as she said she was concerned that they (women) would be outcasts but soon realized that everyone was included and that all instructors really wanted to see all sawyers successful and learn good techniques. Several participants cherished the opportunity to work in pairs so they could observe new techniques.



This is one of the dangerous and difficult trees that was cut by the advanced sawyers at the Cispus I/E Event

Photos by Ryan Kitchen



# Trail Reports:

#### **Miller Peninsula:**

Keeping the trails open at Miller Peninsula State Park has been an on-going process this spring. Each time we get them all open, along comes another windstorm to lay down some more trees. Tom Mix, Leif Hoglund, Judy Dupree, and Jim and Donna Hollatz have all contributed to riding and clearing. As of April 7<sup>th</sup>, things are open, except for the trail to Don Tucker's property from Cable Trail. We will get to that when weather permits. Please send a message via the website or call **Jim and Donna** (360-457-6694) if you encounter obstacles that need chainsaw removal. It is always good to carry a small handsaw when you ride as that can often take care of small blocking trees so you aren't faced with turning around.



Getting stock ready for work day on trail.



This is the way we get a chainsaw to the work site.

# **Trail Crafters News**

### Trail Reports (continued)

### Siebert Creek (North Olympic Land Trust):

A work party was organized by Bill Mueller on March 16<sup>th</sup> to clear fallen debris from the winter and repair some drainage structures. That trail is now in very good shape for walking and bicycles. It is great for equestrians wanting a little adventure from the ODT, too, but is only about a mile loop. It makes a great "trail experience" for riders from Fox-Bell Farm.



### Lyre River Trail (North Olympic Land Trust):

If you have never explored the Lyre River Trail, it is a destination you should consider. The trailhead is at the end of Reynolds Road, west of Joyce. There is room for several cars to park and It is a great place to walk your dog or just hike. The trail goes about a mile north to the Strait of Juan de Fuca at the mouth of the Lyre River. High tides and wave action this past winter changed the shoreline so some of the old trail is no longer useable. There is still a loop, and a trail crew cleared it on Wednesday, March 30. A brand new trail is also being built on that property, so if you want to work on that, watch for announcements of work parties by Bill Mueller and Courtney Bornsworth.



Beach Bench



Flowering current along trail.



Working on brand new trail.





Eager trail workers.

Cleaning debris from bridge.

# Trail Reports (continued) by Rebecca Wanagel

#### LOWER SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH, MARCH 26/27 (US FOREST SERVICE)

Rebecca Wanagel and Martin Knowles (representing BCH-PNC) along with Bob Hoyle (BCH-Buckhorn) and 5 others from our pool of WTA friends/sawyers worked for a weekend on tackling some of the many hundreds of logs down on the Lower S. Fork Skokomish, a stock trail, and some in the LeBar stock campground as well. Kris Lenke (BCH-Buckhorn) helped us swamp for a day. Harold Weise, Tawnya Caldwell and Scott Caldwell (BCH-Olympic) also joined us for a day to help with the campground clearing. A previous WTA work party had already cleared 7/10 of a mile. We picked up form there and cleared another mile on the main trail, plus cleared the 120 spur which was covered with downed trees. This included Rebecca re-certifying Bob for chainsaw which helps towards the BCH goal of keeping trails open.

LOWER SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH AND DRY CREEK EXTENSION TRAIL

Rebecca Wanagel and Bob Hoyle scouted on April 6 with Jai Lust and Mark from the Forest Service. Our goal was to hike some of the old Dry Creek Extension Trail to see the washout that has closed this trail down to everyone, stock and hikers. We hiked for a couple of miles on road behind the gate and then once we got to the Dry Creek Ext. Trail, there was fresh snow and tons of blowdowns. We picked our way through for ¼ mile and then decided it would be easier and wiser to come back with saws and cut our way to the washout. That will be done later this season. Bob and Rebecca then scouted the 140 spur and a little more of the main Skok trail to get a sense of the upcoming work for the May 20-22 work party. The 140 spur has so many logs down I didn't even bother trying to count. They are nearly constant. The main trail is similar though not quite as dense, at least the part we saw.

Therefore, Rebecca now has a WTA work party scheduled for May 14/15 to continue sawing on the 140 spur, the 100 spur and the main trail. ANYONE FROM BCH IS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE WTA CREW TO HELP WITH THIS ENDEAVOR OF UNCOVERING THIS STOCK TRAIL THAT IS COVERED WITH LOGS. If folks join from BCH, their hours will go towards the RTP grant match requirement. We will be meeting at the trailhead by the LeBar campground at 8:30 for each of those days. For information, please contact Rebecca Wanagel, rwanagel@gmail.com.

Also, please consider volunteering for the May 20-22 weekend to help with sawing, swamping or campground cleanup. This was announced before and pre-registration is encouraged because a dinner will be provided. https://www.bchw.org/lebar\_horse\_camp\_regional\_work\_party.php

WEST ELWHA TRAIL, OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, MARCH 19/20

Rebecca led two WTA crews to fix up this neglected trail, which is a stock trail. Tons of work was done: brushing, drainage, log removal, clean up, raking of organics and downed brush. Two people, Jeff Ralston (BCH-PNC) and Jan Holmquist, donated their hours to BCH. Later that week, Jeff and Jan and four people from the WTA crew went back, signed in now as BCH volunteers, and finished some brushing and raking that we couldn't get to that weekend. Later this season we need to get some BCH folks to ride or hike in to work on the horse ford across Hughes. Time to be determined and will be announced.



Photos from work party Mar. 26 & 27 ---sent by Bob Hoyle



# "Rides of March" First Group Trail Ride of 2022 - March 13<sup>th</sup> by Linda Morin

**Dungeness River Trails** 

Glory be! It didn't rain! Fourteen intrepid riders from Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen rode the Dungeness River Trails on March 13<sup>th</sup> under partly sunny skies. New friends, old friends, all had fun meandering throughout the area; other than some usual Spring Fling antics by our trusty steeds. We were very happy to welcome four of our Whidbey Island members, who crossed the Salish Sea to ride with us.

The Cowboy Café at the south loop served up hot coffee, chocolate, and lots of St. Patrick's Day goodies. Plus, riders were treated to grooms holding horses and a mounting block. There was even a bucket of carrots for horse treats. Thank you to the crew who saw to all of our "kneeds"!

A silver ring with a pale blue oval stone was lost during the ride. The best areas to look for it are the parking area along Happy Valley Road, mounting sites, down by the café areas, along the river there, and also along the Highland Connector trail. A photo and reward poster is posted at the trails.

BCHW members send a big RAVE to all the groups who worked together on these DNR and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal lands to give all trail users these great front country trails to enjoy!





### Frosty Moss Relay - February 26, 2022

After 2 years of Covid restrictions, the Frosty Moss Relay, hosted by Peninsula Adventure Sports, returned to its routine procedures. It is an 80 mile relay that ends at 7 Cedars, and Peninsula Chapter set up a warming tent at Exchange Station #6 at the Dan Kelly Trailhead. Our tent has a very welcome wood stove and sustaining treats for the participants! It is always a popular stop. Kat and Tony Sample's "mascots," Murphy and Harley were big hits for photo shoots again this year. Participants went all out with costumes, signs, and energy! Chapter members teamed up to set up the tent and provide a welcoming atmosphere. One of our new members, Janine Oates, provided the photographs. Everyone had fun!





















### **GO PNC! Be Proud of Your Volunteer Trail Work!!!**

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH. Don't

hesitate to send Suzanne an email, <u>rkingandsking@gmail.com</u>, as soon as you do volunteer work of any kind related to trails, events, education, or anything tied to our Mission Statement.

Here are our latest numbers and comparison from last few years:

#### <u>2016</u>

Total VH 7899.5 Total Value \$261,197.36

### 2017-year end

Total VH 5165 Total Value \$165,492

#### 2018 year end

Total VH 6,150.5

Total Value \$205,265.50

#### 2019 year end

Total VH 6,380

Total Value \$240,919.75

#### 2020 year end

Total VH 9,688.5

Total Value \$326,224.00

#### Oct. 1, 2020 thru September 30, 2021

Total Basic Hours	4,898	\$139,788.92
Total Skilled Hours	1,024.5	\$43,585.85
LNT & Educ.	333	9,503.82
Admin. & Plc Mtgs.	2,202.5	\$62,859.35
Travel Time	1.178	\$33,620.12
Total Hours	9,636	\$289,631.06
Vehicle Mileage	28,600	\$28,600.00
Total Miles	28,600	\$28,600.00
Total Stock Days	153	\$15,300.00

Grand Total

\$333,531.06.

#### VOLUNTEERING IT'S WHO WE ARE MAKE YOUR HOURS COUNT - REPORT THEM

#### October 1, 2021 thru February 28, 2022

Total Basic Hours Total Skilled Hours LNT and Education Admin & Public Mtgs. Travel Time Vehicle Mileage Stock Days

754 hours 259.5 hours 443 hours 780.5 hours 196.5 hours 4035 Miles 68

#### As You Can See We Have a Good Start on the New Year!

Peninsula Chapter has more than double the hours of any other chapter in Washington!

# **Report Trail Hazards**

### Please Report Trail Hazards on Website: www.pbchw.org

If you encounter downed trees or other trail hazards while riding, please report them so our trail crews can address and correct the problem.

- Go to the website.
- Click on "contact"
- Give a description of the problem and where it is located. Be specific: date, which trail, approximately where along trail, size of tree or explain problem. Leave contact information if possible.

The website is monitored daily and this information will allow us to get the information to the necessary workers in a timely manner.

### Thank You!

	Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!
April	<ul> <li>16, 2022 (Saturday)</li> <li>Junior Ranger Day: This event is held at Olympic National Park Headquarters on Race Street in Port Angeles from 10am – 2pm. Linda Morin needs some volunteers to help, so please call her if you can do this. 360-775-5060</li> </ul>
	OAT Run: Our chapter sets up a wall tent at the Dan Kelly Trailhead that the Runners can us as a "changing station". We put the tent up at 9am and go back to take it down at around 3pm. Please call Linda (360-775-5060) if you can assist.
April	20, 2022 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: Zoom—Guest Speaker, Author Mark Rashid. Horse Training: "Considering the Horse." A link will be sent before the meeting.
May	14, 2022 (Saturday): Rhody Ride & Breakfast, 8am: Breakfast will be served, and the trail ride will follow. There will be no general meeting. Two trail route choices will be flagged for riders.
May	18, 2022 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: 7pm Sequim Community Church, 905 N 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Sequim. Guest Speaker: Tom Mix, "So you want to ride in the Olympics" This is an in-person meeting!
June	e 15, 2022 (Wednesday) General Membership Meeting: 7pm, Guest Speaker Dana Chambers, BCHW President. Location to be announced soon.

### Your 2022 Peninsula Chapter Officers & Chairs

Take the time to note that this list of Chapter members continues to step up and be your Board Directors and Chairs. They do an outstanding job. We are a very successful BCHW Chapter because of the work they do for you. You can support them in many ways: attend your General Meetings, do volunteer event and trail work, attend our ride events, join every year, bring in new members, and send them a thank you now and then. As with all organizations, burn out is a given. Consider shadowing the person who holds one of these positions so that you can step up to take their place in the near future. Your Chapter's future depends on you!

President – Theresa Percy Vice President – Kim Merrick Secretary – Denise Hupfer Treasurer – Denise Hupfer State Director – Theresa Percy Alternate State Director – Vacant Trail Project Coord. – Rebecca Wanagel Membership Chair - Vacant Events & Education Chair - Linda Morin Volunteer Hours Chair – Suzanne James-King Publicity Chair – Donna Hollatz Email for the Chapter:

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# Membership 2022

At this time (4/5/22), we have 104 members, including all family members. There are 12 brand new memberships to BCHW, a total of 20 new to Peninsula, for a total of 69 memberships (which are sometimes more than one person).

Membership is for one year, beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup>. We welcome new members at any time and always enjoy meeting new people. We have a lot of fun while working to keep trails open for everyone. You don't need a horse to belong and contribute or work with us. If you have friends who are interested in joining, please have them follow these directions:

Go to *www.pbchw.org*. Click or tap the JOIN tab. Click or tap on the Back Country Horsemen logo. Complete the form. Online payment is at the bottom of the form. It is very simple. If anyone has any questions about it, they may call Denise 425-221-1752.

If a paper form is desired, go to our website, **www.pbchw.org**, click or tap on the JOIN tab, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click or tap on the image of the paper form. It will populate and can be printed from there. Follow the instructions on the form for mailing and payment.

### **Summer Horse Needed**

Larry Gonzales (a long-time Peninsula Chapter member) is looking for a:

Trail Horse to Care-Lease (food/farrier provided) for the Summer 2022.

Larry's older Paint, "Sonny," can't do trails anymore, but Larry's mind and body (almost 80) still have a few rides left! Larry is a very kind rider and takes good care of his mount. He usually rides with Monte Rivett. Rides would only be **walk** at either Miller Peninsula or Dungeness Trails, no rough stuff! **The horse needs to trailer well and be gentle and kind.** If anyone has such a "**gem**" that needs some **TLC** and **exercise** next summer, please give Larry a call at **760-518-1753** and see what you can arrange. You could make Larry very happy!



### **Classified Ads**

All BCHW members can post a free equine or farm related ad. 20 words or less. Must include contact info. Due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month by email: *PeninsulaBCHWChapter@Gmail.Com* 

### Photos from Past Years!





# Thank You to the businesses who support our efforts!



### Opportunity to Make Donations to the Chapter!

The following is from an article found in USA Today. I tried it and found it works as advertised. October 31, 2013; <u>USA TODAY</u>. This holiday season, Amazon is in quite the charitable mood when it comes to giving away money to nonprofits. Amazon has released a new project, <u>Amazon Smile</u>, which gives shoppers the opportunity to donate through the site to the charity of their choice. By shopping at <u>smile.amazon.com</u> instead of plain old <u>amazon.com</u>, 0.5 percent of the value of their purchases will be donated. What's even more amazing is that there seems to be no limit to the amount Amazon will give to charity, although as of now auto-renewed subscription purchases and digital products aren't included in the AmazonSmile project.

Ian McAllister, general manager of AmazonSmile, says the company did it simply "because it thought customers would love it." Donations will be made on behalf of a foundation established by Amazon, so those using AmazonSmile will not be able to claim donations as charitable deductions.

Philanthropic charities looking to register their organizations can visit <u>org.amazon.com</u>, sign up, and begin spreading the AmazonSmile link to start the giving to your nonprofit. And, in a moment of shameless self-promotion, if you'd like to support the *Nonprofit Quarterly* (listed under the IRS and GuideStar as the Nonprofit Information Network Association) through AmazonSmile, <u>please click here</u> http://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-4080038

Aine Creedon

Every little bit helps so if you do buy from Amazon try this out.