

Fall 2023

Trail Crafters News

Olympic Peninsula, Washington



President Theresa Building New Trail

PENINSULA CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

PO Box 451, Carlsborg, WA 98324 visit us on FB peninsulabchwhchapter@gmail.com

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

Upcoming Events: Next General Mtg. Oct. 18th 7pm, Gardiner Community Center
(Program: Mike McCaffrey presenting "Body Work for Horses")

(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

As the leaves begin to fall, it is time to renew your membership in BCHW Peninsula Chapter. The past year has been one of many accomplishments including miles of trail maintenance, informative and entertaining programs, a successful fundraiser, the prize ride, the first youth trail clinic, plus many opportunities for member fellowship. It is a good time to remind all of us of the benefits of being part of the national (BCHA) and state (BCHW) organizations: 501C3 status, liability insurance, legislative lobbying, access to trail information and conditions, educational resources and services, financial and grant support, geographically diverse membership and much more. I asked this question last year and will ask again. So "What's in it for you?"

Here are a wide range of benefits available to you as a member:

- Make a lasting difference – save and keep trails open for all
- Give back, pay it forward – be part of a national and state movement
- Be part of a supportive group with a wealth of life and stock experience
- Be part of building new trails
- Learn the culinary secrets of delicious trail and camping food
- Help from a group of horsemen with hundreds of years of experience
- Access to resources for trails and riding
- Cultivating new friendships
- Lively and engaging programs – authors & clinicians
- Participate in annual BCHW Rendezvous
- Discounts at local stores
- Mentoring opportunities
- Connect with other organizations and individuals who are trail advocates and users
- Trail safety and Leave No Trace education
- Stock Disaster preparedness and emergency network resources
- Chapter-sponsored rides and campouts
- Other ??

In order for the Peninsula Chapter to continue its work, we need members and that means you. While I thank you for your past support, I urge you to renew and be part of a thriving organization that "Educates, Advocates, Recreates, and Moves Dirt." I look forward to personally welcoming you as a 2024 member and to sharing the trails with you next season, trails that we keep open!

Happy Trails,
Theresa
President

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 resource agencies.

Special Interest Articles

- Chapter Picnic Pg. 2
- Joyce Daze Pg.3
- Sage Hrse Cp Pg. 4
- Trail Work Pg.4
- Prize Ride Pg. 5
- Youth Trl Cmp Pg. 6

Highlights:

- Calendar 7
- Contact Info 9
- Membership 9
- Vol. Hrs. 10
- Sponsors 11

Chapter Picnic - July 29, 2023

Former president, Dan Dosey, and his wife Debbie generously shared their beautiful country home with chapter members for the annual picnic. Peninsula Chapter was honored to have BCHW President Dana Chambers in attendance to speak with us about things happening at the state level. Many delicious dishes were brought to the potluck and Marty Morin barbecued salmon as the main entrée. We had a wonderful day of subdued sunshine and a brisk game of croquet was played following the meal. This was a wonderful opportunity to visit and connect because it brings many members together in one place. As an extra bonus, everyone brought their own table service, so we are practicing our "Leave No Trace" principles when we gather.



A bountiful feast was spread for all to enjoy!



The salmon was barbecued to perfection.



Presentations by Kim Merrick, Dana Chambers and Jeff Chapman.



Croquet Competition!

Save the Date -- HOLIDAY DINNER – December 2, 2023

**Anyone who is willing to help with this event, please call Judy Sarles
925-984-9654 by November 1st!
Thank You!**

Joyce Daze Parade – August 5, 2023

Members of Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington took part in the Joyce Daze Parade on August 5th. Some members stayed for a two-day camp-out at the lovely Epona Ranch Campground, owned by member Margaret Salstrom. They set up portable corrals for their horses or used high-ties to trailers. Some riders trailered in each day.

The activities started with a “practice ride” through the metropolis of Joyce on Friday, August 4th to let the horses become accustomed to the surroundings they would experience on the “big day.” Riders, Julie Kustura, Joan Wildman, Juelie Dalzell, Judy Sarles, and Sandy Ihly readied their horses at the ranch and then had a relaxed ride through town.

The day of the big parade, the riders were joined by Ben Wildman, pulling the chapter Tool Trailer which is emblazoned with the emblems of all of our “partner” agencies with whom we work to keep public lands and trails open to everyone (National Park Service, US Forest Service, Washington State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, Clallam County, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Washington Trails Association, and Pacific Crest Trail Association). Linda Morin followed the unit with an electric lawn tractor and the job of “pooper scooper.” A cheering crowd showed their appreciation for the opportunity to see the horses and Peninsula Chapter was awarded the “Blue Ribbon” for the best Animal Entry in the parade!

Following the parade, participants returned to Epona Ranch where Margaret Salstrom put on a big fish fry for friends and neighbors and everyone was treated to entertainment by local Cowboy Poet and Storyteller, Eric Tobin.

The only frightening event of the weekend was that one of the horses became tangled in his high-tie rope during the night. This is a reminder that “safety knots” can be pulled so tightly by the weight of a horse that they will not release as planned. A sharp knife was used to cut the rope and safely released the horse—but equestrians should **ALWAYS** have a **SHARP KNIFE** within easy reach for this kind of emergency! Carrying one on your belt when you ride and having one “taped” to the inside of your horse trailer door, within easy reach, are highly recommended.



Parade Participants Getting Ready



First Place in Animal Division

Sage Horse Camp Dedication – August 26, 2023

Our beloved “Layton Hill Horse Camp” was given a new name during the Ride the Hill event! Del and Judy Sage had the foresight years ago to turn this beautiful property into a place for horse people to enjoy. They donated hours of work and considerable money into making this dream come true with campsites, corrals, a round pen, an obstacle course, and an arena all of which adjoin DNR land which provides a network of trails and roads to ride. They were honored by their daughter Anna and her husband Bill by having the horse camp named after them. A new logo was hung up along with many new trail signs. They are very deserving of this honor and we thank them for making it available to horsemen!



New Sage Camp Logo



Del & Judy Sage

Jamestown North – Trail Work Sept. 28 & 29, 2023

Peninsula Chapter members built the Jamestown North Trail in 2019 to make a nice loop ride from the end of Cat Lake Road to the Miller Peninsula Trail system. The following year we built a connector across DNR land to give access to the ODT. There has been an area of the trail that gets quite muddy during the winter, so we used the motorized totes to raise the level of some low spots. Del Sage donated and loaded the gravel onto Jim Hollatz's flatbed trailer, then it was scooped into the totes and walked down the trail. Volunteers who helped on this project were Rick & Suzanne King, Joan Wildman, Tom Mix, and Jim & Donna Hollatz. We hope this work will make the trail more pleasant for bicycles and hikers.



Olympic Spirit Prize Ride -- September 9, 2023

Peninsula Chapter of Back County Horsemen of Washington held its annual “Olympic Spirit Prize Ride” on Saturday, September 9th, at Sage Horse Camp off Chicken Coop Road. This activity is the chapter’s main fund raiser for the year. Funds are used for costs involved with doing trail work, providing youth and community education about equine pursuits, trail etiquette, and conservation, and for chapter business expenses.

Sequim and Port Angeles businesses providing sponsorships and prizes that totaled \$1,150 were: First Federal Bank, Cole’s Jewelers, Sequim Co-Op Farm & Garden, Sound Equine, Mary Craft, Sound Community Bank, and Brown’s Outdoor Store.

Sixty-four riders turned out with their horses to ride the trails. Most came from out of the area, with about 40 horse trailers camping Friday night, and some Saturday. A barbecue rib dinner was served to 50 people and over 60 prizes were available in exchange for raffle tickets.

The “ride” is about 8 miles/3 hours long and used a maze of DNR Roads and trails south of Hwy 101. Some new connecting trails were built this summer by chapter members, so less time was spent riding on “roads” and lovely new views were opened to riders. The weather was beautiful, and skies were clear to take advantage of the fantastic 360 degree vistas.

Chapter members donated many hours the day of the ride and in the months prior, organizing and executing this activity. A Trail Team (Theresa Percy, Juelie Dalzell, Anna Neal, Suzanne King, Judy Dupree, and Sara Campbell) rode and flagged the trail in the days ahead and before riders headed out Saturday morning. Sweep riders followed the group and removed flagging. The Prize Team (Judy Sarles, Linda Morin, Julie Kustura, Donna Hollatz, and Nancy Scott) procured prizes and arranged the display. The Registration Team (Stephanie Burns and Sandy Ihly) organized the paperwork and helped riders sign up, while Rick King managed the parking. A Snack Stop (Helen Shewman, Larry Sammons, and Jeff Chapman) was set up mid-ride to provide refreshments and water for riders and their mounts while they enjoyed the views. The Dinner Team (Kim Merrick, Joan Wildman, Julie Kustura, Nicole Witham, and Donna Hollatz) prepared and served dinner for 50 campers.

Many riders expressed their appreciation for the well-organized ride and are planning to return next September! In a follow-up survey, participants overwhelmingly gave “strongly agree” positive evaluations for all elements of the ride.



Registration
←



Prizes
→

Youth Trail Campout -- September 30, 2023

Last spring Vice President Kim Merrick embarked on an ambitious plan for our chapter to host a Trail Clinic-Camp Out for Youth and their horses at Layton Hill. She was awarded a grant from BCHW to help fund the event and it was planned for May 6th with 14 youngsters signed up to participate and instructors lined up to teach 4 sessions to the kids: Riding Skills Needed on the Trail; Navigation of Trail Obstacles; Trail Clearing and Building; and Trail Safety on Shared Trails (3S).

Unfortunately, as the May date approached, we determined that the grounds at Layton Hill were much too wet, so the event was postponed and we looked for a new date that would accommodate riders and instructors. The schedules of most of the kids (who are involved with 4-H, Pony Club, Junior Rodeo, and family vacations) did not make it easy to find a date that worked for many kids.

We did have a group of 4 very enthusiastic riders, ages 10, 12, and 14, who were able to participate on Saturday, September 30. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the kids and their horses got a lot of individual attention because the classes were small. It was a great opportunity for our instructors to work the kinks out of the training and for seeing ways we can improve the program for next year.

Linda Morin and Julie Kustura taught the 3S Safety Program (Stop-Stand-Speak) which teaches safe interactions between user groups (hikers, bicycles, and equestrians) on shared trails.

Donna Hollatz and Joan Wildman instructed the group on the tools used to build trails, what to carry as a first aid kit, and how to cut obstacles back far enough for safe clearance. The kids were able to practice using a small trail pack saw, loppers, and clippers.

Arianne Raser, an instructor from Port Townsend, worked in the arena with the kids and their horses to help them learn safe trail riding skills; such as, proper following distance, being able to turn on the haunch and forehand, and riding with loose, relaxed reins.

Amanda Jackson, of Poulsbo, helped the riders and their mounts practice the obstacles at Sage Camp with great success for both kids and horses.

Theresa Percy, Stephanie Burns, and Suzanne King then led the mounted group on an actual trail ride through the Sage Camp property.

A campfire with s'mores completed the days activities. The families camped a second night and headed home on Sunday.

The plan is to do another Trail Camp for Youth next summer!



3S Trail Safety Presentation
by Linda Morin & Julie Kustura



Riders practicing trail skills with
Arianne Raser.

Peninsula Chapter 2024 "Proposed" Calendar of Events by Kim

January

- 17 Zoom Meeting

February

- 21 Zoom Chapter Meeting
- 24 Frosty Moss Relay

March

- 20 In-Person Chapter Meeting?
- 20 Rides of March
- 16 – 18 Rendezvous, Ellensburg

April

- 16 OAT Run
- 17 Chapter Meeting

May

- 4 Irrigation Festival Parade
- 11 Dutch Oven Cooking Clinic
- 15 In-Person Chapter Meeting
- 18 Rhody Ride

June

- TBD Family/Youth Trails Clinis
- 19 In-Person Chapter Meeting
- 22 Dan Kelly Ride – Julie Kustura

July

- 17 No Chapter Meeting
- 20-21 Chapter Campout/Tune-Up Clinic, Picnic @ Sage Horse Camp

August

- 3-4 Joyce Daze Parade/Ride & Campout
- 21 In-Person Chapter Meeting

September

- 7 Prize Ride at Sage Horse Camp
- 18 In-Person Chapter Meeting

October

- 16 In-Person Chapter Meeting
- ? To Be Decided "Fall Colors Ride"

November

- 20 Zoom Chapter Meeting

December

- 7 End of Year Party/Elections/Awards

Board Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month over Zoom. Members welcome!

In Person Meetings will be held at Gardiner Community Center unless otherwise noted.
980 Old Gardiner Road
Sequim, WA 98382

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!

Trailhead Courtesy Reminder:

State Park personnel have complimented equestrians on the improved Parking Lot clean up, but everyone should be reminded to practice the **Leave No Trace** principles that we teach. Be sure to clean up any “deposits” you and your horses leave around your horse trailers or on the trails. If you cannot get your horse to move off the trail to “poop,” dismount and kick the stuff off the trail (especially the ADA section at Miller). Walkers and bicycle riders will appreciate your courtesy! This includes shavings and hay in the parking area! Park rangers use a “blower” to clean the parking lot, and some of that stuff just won’t move when damp! **(Do not comb winter hair from your mount and leave it in the parking area!)** We want to be sure that equestrians set a good example for other trail users.

New Request to All Members:

We are working toward having accurate information regarding **Trailhead Parking** on our Website.

Please: If you go to a trailhead, take a photo of your truck and trailer that shows the parking lot.

Send those photos to me and also report any unsatisfactory road conditions or problems with stock rig maneuvering space. This will be very helpful to people planning trips. (If we get multiple photos of the same lot, we’ll be able to choose the best one.) Send photos and information to Donna Hollatz jdholatz@gmail.com 360-457-6694.

Photography Assistance Requested

One of the best ways to document all of our wonderful activities is through photos! We do not have an official photographer and it is difficult for one person to be at all of our events, so it would be extremely helpful if those of you in attendance would take some photos and send them to Newsletter editor, Donna Hollatz (jdholatz@gmail.com). This documentation can then be used for posters, newsletters, state calendar, and other promotions. If you have a photo that you feel is worthy of submission to “Chapter Accomplishments” or “Calendar” at the state level, please send it to me “full size” as that is the format that is needed for submissions.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SENT PHOTOS IN THE PAST!

Your 2023 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	teopercy@gmail.com
Vice President – Kim Merrick	eloise55@gmail.com
Secretary – Joan Wildman	joanwildman5745@gmail.com
Treasurer – Nancy Scott	nescottcpa@hotmail.com
State Director – Jeff Chapman	bbbranch@olympus.net
Alternate State Director – Vacant	
Trail Project Coord. – Rebecca Wanagel	rwanagel@gmail.com
Membership Chair – Patricia Cosner	haffyluv106@gmail.com
Events/Trail Rides – Betsy Trager	trailrider1028@gmail.com
Volunteer Hours Chair – Suzanne James-King	rkingandsking@gmail.com
Publicity Chair – Donna Hollatz	jdholatz@gmail.com
Web Manager – Ben Wildman	bwildman57@gmail.com
Social Media Manager – Mandy Biles	EquestriansAcademy@gmail.com
LNT Education – Juelie Dalzell	gobi@olympus.net
Email for the Chapter:	peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com

Membership 2024

The membership drive for 2024 has begun! A number of members have already renewed their memberships and we have several members who are new to Peninsula Chapter or new to BCHW.

If you have not sent in your 2024 renewal, this would be a perfect time!

Membership is for one year, beginning on January 1st. 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 to 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 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.

Thank You to the businesses who support our efforts!



These businesses support BCHW. Please take your business to them.



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 25th of the month by email: PeninsulaBCHWChapter@Gmail.Com