



PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of
Washington
"Educate, Advocate, and Move Dirt!"
Website: PBCHW.COM

December 2021/January 2022



Photo taken from the Columbia Plateau trail at Amber Lake trailhead.

CALENDAR

All event dates subject to change or cancellation: Watch facebook and emails.

**December 7, - PBCH
Membership meeting and
Party**

**January 4, 2022- General
Meeting**

**January 22 – BCHW
Leadership training in
Ellensburg**

**January 25 2022 PBCH
Board Meeting, 5:30 pm**

**January 29 – BCHW
Leadership training via
ZOOM**

President's Report

By Tom Birge

If you missed our November meeting, you missed out on a great selection of soups and a lot of other goodies. We had 2 visitors, Mary Johnston and Nancy Belsby. It's always great to meet new people at our meetings and get a chance to visit with them.

Mary and her husband Alex joined our Chapter and we welcome them. Andrea and Rod Staton have also joined and we look forward to meeting them. In addition, Vern Hopkins joined at our December meeting and Party. Welcome to all!



On November 30 our Executive Board met for our first meeting, the members of the Board are the Chapter officers: Tom Birge, President; Carol Klar, Vice-President; Diana Birge, Treasurer; Patty Wright, Secretary; Ken Carmichael, Director; and Larry Grinstead, Alternate Director. Three other members were nominated also to serve on the Board, Doug Bailey, Trail Boss; Michelle Eames, Newsletter; and Melissa Halpin, Spokane County Lands Coordinator. The Board voted to accept these nominations. The purpose of the Executive Board is to take care of the business end of the chapter to avoid bogging down our member meetings with these items. Members are more than welcome to join these meetings and the dates and location will be published via email.

We look forward to 2022 and the things we have planned: Trail Head Camping Clinic, Poker Ride, Ladies Campout at Lakeview, Group Campout at Escure Ranch, and more.

Patty Wright will be organizing monthly rides and we are looking into different work parties for this coming year.

Thank you! Tom



Vice President's Update on Meeting and Activity planning for 2022

2021 is quickly coming to a close, and we are eagerly working on some meeting topics for 2022. Some topics on the short list are:

- Hay Quality and selection
- Noxious Weeds and pasture management
- Hoof protections / boots
- Wilderness Safety
- Map reading / GPS / Tracking Apps
- Interstate Travel and documentation requirements for 2022



We also hope to have an Author night, featuring 3 Spokane-area horse-book authors; work on that has started. As far as other group activities, we have some group trail rides planned, and will publish ride details a bit closer to the ride dates, but hope to begin these in April and offer one per month through September. We are in the early stages of planning a campout during the second half of April at Lakeview Ranch. Thus far 11 members have expressed interest in this. Details for registration will come out in early March. If there is any topic or speaker you'd like to have on our meeting schedule, please let me know. Thanks much!

Carol Klar, Vice President and Education Chair
Cklar32@gmail.com

Happy Holidays to all!





Note from the Editor: Paying it Forward

By Michelle Eames

As we end a year, and begin a new year, I have been thinking of how to pay my good fortune forward. I am lucky enough to have a horse, and lucky enough to live in an area with many trails to ride on. I do other disciplines of riding, but trail riding is my first love. I actually bought my current breed of horse, a fjord horse for two reasons: 1) they are short, and fit under low branches nicely; and 2) they are usually brave and go over and through obstacles that many other horses think twice about.

I belong to Back Country Horsemen because I recognize that we must be advocates for the trails we love. I also like to work outside with other horsemen; therefore I enjoy our work parties. I think often about how I can pay my good fortune forward. In the last year, I have gone riding with people who don't know certain local trails, or haven't done much trail riding at all. This way I am paying forward my knowledge of trails and trail riding, with the hope that my friends will be safe, learn to "leave no trace", and become advocates of horse use on the trails. Plus, I like seeing their delight in the places we go. My horse is usually pretty calm, especially in small groups, and he can give the new trail riders or trail horses confidence. I plan to continue this small effort of riding with trail novices, and teaching folks the trail routes I know. I always appreciate when other folks show me new trails, so it seems right to pass that on and pay it forward.

Enjoy this newsletter issue with lots of information on past and future activities. How can you help? How can you "pay it forward" and help to meet our BCH mission? See our Mission Statement toward the end of the newsletter, and take a look at our 2022 planning calendar. Save the dates!

And if you are running out of Christmas gift ideas, read on, for a fun do-it-yourself project!

Also, you may notice a few holiday party pictures tucked into the newsletter here and there. If you missed this year, put it on your calendar for next year!



PONDEROSA BCH
2022 Planning Calendar
DRAFT
November 30, 2021

All dates subject to change due to COVID or other reasons.

January

January 4, 2022- General Meeting
January 22 – BCHW Leadership training in Ellensburg
January 25- Board Meeting, 5:30 pm
January 29 – BCHW Leadership training via ZOOM

February

February 1- General Meeting
February 1- Deadline for pictures for the 2023 BCHW Calendar

March

March 1- General Meeting
March 11- Consignments for 4H Tack Sale
March 12- 4H Tack Sale
March 18-20 – BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg

April

April 5- General Meeting TBD Hoof Protection/boots: Lydia Friel
April 21-23- Ladies' campout (tentative) at Lakeview
April 29 PM – Set up equipment for Front Country Trailhead Camping seminar
April 30 - May 1 – Front Country Trailhead Camping – Hands-on seminar in Riverside State Park @ 7-mile air field

May

May 3 - General Meeting; dress rehearsal for poker ride
May 14 – Set up equipment for poker ride
May 15 – Poker Ride (Sunday)
May 21 – Potential BCHW Joe Watt Canyon poker ride (not confirmed yet)
May 27-30 – PBCH Escure Ranch campout and ride (Memorial Day weekend)

June

June 4-5 – SCOPE despooping clinic
June 7- General Meeting;
June 10-11 - We can anticipate many graduation ceremonies
June TBD PBCH Trautman Ride - Carol K.

July

Meeting TBD, outdoor, maybe the 5th, maybe the 12th

August

August 2- Meeting?

September

September 6- General Meeting

October

October 1-2 - Camping at Escure (tentative)

October 4 - General Meeting; potluck

October 28-29 - Zillah Wine Ride

November

November 1- General Meeting; soup social

December

December 6 - General Meeting; Christmas Party

Other events can be found here: https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php

BCHW Membership

By Ken Carmichael

It is time to renew our BCH memberships. The easiest way is to go to www.bchw.org, click on membership renewal, complete the information and use a credit card. **Be sure to indicate that you want to belong to the Ponderosa chapter.** If you do not want to use the computer then complete the attached membership application and send it with a check to the address indicated.

PBCH has a busy year planned for 2022. Patty Wright has volunteered to coordinate chapter rides. We will have the poker ride and again this year we will have the Front Country Trailhead Camping seminar at Riverside State Park. We have several work parties planned. Carol Klar and committee are planning several educational events, including ones at our chapter meetings.

Ponderosa BCH will celebrate its 6th anniversary one December 5th. We have grown from 20 members to 60. When we were formed we developed a set of principles to guide the chapter. They are attached to this newsletter. We are proud of the strength of the chapter and the many membership opportunities.

To get the most out of your membership renew yours by January 15. This is when we determine who are current members. We encourage everyone to participate in PBCH. We need everyone's skills, talents, interests and abilities. Talk to us about what you want to do in BCH.

Let's Ride!

Hello Ponderosa members!

2022 is going to be an awesome year, with lots of events, opportunities to contribute to building an even better trail system, and, of course, riding with friends. Each month between April and October we are planning to have at least one organized, PBCH-sanctioned, trail ride somewhere in the lovely Inland Northwest. Rides will be open to all members and their guests. So far Carol Klar has volunteered to show us around the Trautman property, and Melissa Halpin and I are going to head up a ride at Mica Peak. What trail would you like to show off to your fellow members and friends? Leading a ride is easy - just let me know where and when, and I will provide you with release paperwork for guests and make sure it's announced to the membership. Let's get our feet in the stirrups in '22!



Patty Wright

Trial Ride Boss



BCHW Director Report

By Ken Carmichael

On Saturday, December 4, I attended the quarterly BCHW Board of Directors meeting in Ellensburg. **Doug Baily** and **Larry Grinstead** (Alternate Director) also attended.

As always it was a busy meeting with 25 chapter representatives plus committee chairs. Committees provide written reports plus some verbal discussion. The following is a quick overview of some of the topics discussed.

NOTE: since writing this I must confess it got longer than expected. However, I encourage you to read it. This is OUR organization at work. It takes a big crew working for the membership.

- BCHW Officer Elections – As chairman of the Nominating Committee I conducted the election of officers. The following people were elected:
 - ✓ President – Dana Chambers
 - ✓ Vice President – Bob Iddins
 - ✓ BCHA Director – Kathy Young
 - ✓ BCHA Alternate Director – Tom Conner

These are all strong candidates who will do a great job for BCHW. I look forward to working with all of them. Dana has asked me to continue my roll on the President's Advisory Committee.

- Store – Lori encouraged everyone to purchase and wear BCHW clothing. It is a great Christmas gift and by wearing "our colors" we contribute to promoting BCH and the work we do. Tom Birge has store items at PBCH meetings and can order more through Lori.
- Winery Ride – This was a great success. There were 612 riders, along with 118 volunteers from 19 chapters in Zillah Washington on October 30, 2021. Patti Carmichael, Doug Bailey and I had a great time as volunteers. For our part the chapter earned \$67.08 which we donated back to BCHW. Other statistics – 237 campsites (plus day riders), 1476 raffle tickets, 2700 bottles of wine and store sales of \$11,800. Everyone should give this a try as a rider or volunteer next year.
- Grants – The committee continues to manage grants to chapters through BCHW. PBCH has used one of these grants in the past and can apply when we have a qualifying project.
- Rendezvous – Rendezvous will be in **Ellensburg on March 18-20**. PBCH has reserved two tables for the banquet. **We encourage everyone to make dinner reservation and camping reservations if camping on site. Do this on the BCHW website.** There are many job openings where help is needed. PBCH will host the "Trailhead" where we will show BCHW Accomplishment Videos. Please come help and have a good time. Rendezvous schedule of events will come out in the THN (Trail Head News).
- Ways and Means – It is still undecided if there will be a poker ride at Joe Watt outside of Cle Elum. They need a leader.
- BCHW Calendars – **Pictures for the 2023 BCHW calendar must be submitted by February 1, 2022.** The email is BCHWpix@gmail.com. Or mail to 510 Dalles Mountain Road Centerville, WA 98613. Disk or thumb drive will not be returned. This is fun so send in your good pictures.
- Leadership Training – This will take place in two parts. In Ellensburg on January 22 and by ZOOM on January 29. Some will be different classes. I will be at both. I really encourage everyone to participate. I will provide the schedule when available.
- Membership Development – We are in the membership renewal period. Please renew by January 15 so you do not miss any BCH benefits.
- Governance and Bylaws – The bylaws and associated documents provide the framework by which we operate. They are a critical tool in managing our organization. But they are effective only if our members and particularly our leaders, are familiar with them, understand them and follow them. I have more information about these documents and their availability.

- Officer signatures – Annually BCHW officers, directors and committee chairs sign conflict of interest forms. In addition, officers and directors must sign a whistle blower form once. This is part of our good business practices.
- Legislative – Washington Legislature starts a short session on January 10, 2022. It is uncertain how much will be live or ZOOM. **The BCHW Legislative Day will be Monday, February 21, 2022** and no doubt will be virtual. More information to follow. No further information about E-bikes.
- Public Lands – The statewide BCHW and Forest Service agreement is being reviewed. BCHW has divided the state into six regions with a representative for each region. **Doug Stewart has the Northeast Region.** There was information about each region. The following is about the NE. “The Colville National Forest is expanding motorized use and de facto reduction of equine use in Sand Canyon, northeast of Chewelah, including trails and watering hole improved by NEBCHW with RTP funds. FS asked BCHW if it would build a new trail for the four-wheelers, the request was declined. We are looking into possible violation of Roadless Rule.” The Ponderosa chapter contacts for this committee are **Melissa Halpin** for Spokane County and **Ken Carmichael** for state parks and Bureau of Land Management. BCHA continues to address the issue of horse camps being occupied by non-equestrians. This is an issue where they fill the equestrian camps and we cannot camp in other locations. If you see this occurring please report it to us. The Public Lands committee appreciates feedback on any issue.
- Volunteer Hours – The volunteer hours year ended September 30. A detailed report by chapter and land manager has been provided, **2021 BCHW Volunteer hours equal 52,556 with a value of \$1,962,069.23. PBCH did a great job. We completed 2402 hours for \$80,209.48. THANK YOU.** This committee has helpers that work with the chapter volunteer hours coordinators. If you would like to help please contact me.
- Awards – BCHW provides several statewide awards for BCH members at rendezvous. Nomination forms and descriptions of the awards are on the BCHW website.
- Sawyer Certification – BCHW continues to certify sawyers for work on public land. PBCH has several certified sawyers. If you would like to join this elite group please contact me.
- Membership – As of November 14, BCHW has 2202 members. I should point out that PBCH was chartered 6 years ago on December 5, 2015, with 20 members. At our Christmas party December 7 Vern Hopkins became our 60th member. We are proud of our chapter’s success.
- Leave No Trace – This committee puts on an excellent training program. Again in 2022 there will be one at Randall Washington on April 2-3. Patti and I attended this several years ago and it was well worth the trip. You can register after February 1. I would like to see one in Spokane.
- Publicity – This committee can help promote PBCH events. The Facebook page is active. We are also on the Trailhead News calendar. BCHW is a registered charity at AmazonSmile. The direct link is smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1581347. As of August 31 this passive fundraiser has raised \$3,869.06. Please use it when purchasing through Amazon.
- BCHW Reimagined Proposal – **THIS WAS THE MAJOR ITEM AT THE MEETING.** I have not been on the committee but have personally spent hours on the subject. I feel it is critical for BCHW and deserves our attention for BCH to grow and prosper. The following is the amended motion passed by the board. I am certain that I will be playing a part in taking this action forward. I am always interested in your input.
 - ✓ Establish an Executive Committee (EC) for BCHW consisting of nine (9) members. The EC members will serve two-year terms and are elected by the Chapter Directors on a bi-annual basis. The Directors will serve on staggered terms such that some continuity between Executive Committee’s is maintained. A nomination committee will be appointed by the President, consisting of three Directors not running for a seat on the EC, to establish the slate of nominations for each election.
 - ✓ Direct the incoming BCHW President in January 2022 to appoint an implementation committee to develop amendments to the current BCHW Bylaws and Standing Rules to implement an

Executive Committee with this structure. The implementation committee will provide recommendations and revised bylaws for adoption at the June 2022 Board meeting.

- Inland Empire Chapter -In July 2021 the members of IEBCH voted to dissolve the chapter effective December 31, 2021. The BCHW Board voted to accept this action. We do not want to lose the relation between BCH and Spokane County. Therefore, Melissa Halpin will be the Ponderosa contact with Spokane County.
- BCHW Budget – A budget was approved for 2022.
- Youth Packing Program – The Board approved the development of a youth packing instruction program. Not a great deal of detail was provided.
- First Aid Trainer – Several years ago BCHW approved a first aid training program and purchased supplies. The trainer moved away and we are looking for someone to step into this position.



BCHW Events

By Ken Carmichael

One benefit of BCHW membership is participation in some wonderful events.

WINERY RIDE:

On Saturday, October 30 BCHW held the 20th annual Winery Ride in Zillah Washington. Envision 620 riders, about 300 trucks and trailers, 100 volunteers and a lot of fun.

Doug Bailey, Patti and I went to the event to volunteer. Doug helped park all those rigs on Friday and Saturday. On Friday Patti and I manned the BCHW Membership and Winery Ride Information booth, so we got to talk to just about everyone. On Saturday Patti was a host at the Bonair Winery which she has enjoyed for many years. After I manned the booth for a few hours I started driving to bring wine from the Wineries to registration. There participants could pick up their wine. This is one of the biggest sales days each year for the participating wineries.



Besides the winery ride there were dinners on Friday and Saturday night and musical entertainment on Saturday night.

It is fun volunteering, talking to participants and BCHW members, and contributing to the success of a great BCHW fundraiser. An added benefit is that Patti and I stayed at a B&B run by one of the winery owners. We had a wonderful time with them and will stay there again next year.



RENDEZVOUS:

On March 18-20, 2022, BCHW will hold the annual rendezvous in Ellensburg. There will be vendor booths, clinics, seminars, auctions, banquet, tack sale, contests and much more. There is no cost for entry. I do recommend reserving a banquet meal and camping or motel reservations as this is a popular event. Ponderosa chapter has reserved two tables (16 people) for the banquet, so we want to see lots of members there. See the BCHW website www.bchw.org for dinner and camping reservations.

What will Ponderosa be doing at the rendezvous. We will have a chapter booth telling about PBCH. In addition, we will host the "Trailhead Room". There we will show BCHW Accomplishment videos, and some old Roy Rogers and Lone Ranger shows. It will be a great place to rest and relax during a busy day. More detail is provided in the following article.

Plan on joining us at Rendezvous March 18-20 and have a great time!

The following is the BCHW board report for rendezvous. Because of the content I am providing it all. Ken Carmichael

RENDEZVOUS IS COMING - it's only 4 months away!

WHAT IS RENDEZVOUS? It is a state sponsored event put on by chapters and members, offering educational, shopping, social and informative events and seminars for both BCHW members and the public. There are no fees for anything other than the Saturday night catered dinner and on-site camping. There are a couple of event organizers who arrange the facilities and insurance, and encourage, find time slots and locations for the events and activities that the **chapters** and **individuals** suggest, organize, and run. For instance, Mt. St. Helens wants and offered to run a Used Tack Sale. The organizers find them a location to hold it and the publicity people advertise it; the MSH members do everything else.

For the 2022 event we have the following in place:

Organizers: Jen Bond & Teri Starke

- Accounting – Teri Starke **NEEDS A COUPLE MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR DURING and AFTER AUCTION!**
- Reservations for Camping & Dinners – Dana Chambers **NEEDS A COUPLE MORE VOLUNTEERS!**
- Used Tack Sale – Mt. St. Helens
- Vendors – Teri Starke
- General Meeting & Guest Speaker – New BCHW State President
- Board of Directors meeting – New BCHW State President
- Awards – Sue Sundahl
- Saturday night catered dinner, liquor, table reservations & auctioneer – Teri Starke
- Head Table hosts – Scatter Creek Riders
- Saturday Auctions – Missy Day & Team **CHAPTERS – PLEASE DONATE ITEMS or \$\$**
- Parking – Daren Moorman will head up – **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**
- Chapter displays & judging – Teri Starke
- BCHW Accomplishments video – Ken Carmichael
- Sawyer Meeting – Tony Karniss
- Hospitality – Traildusters
- Concessions – Teri Starke
- BCHW Store – Lori Lennox & the Grays Harbor Chapter
- Leave No Trace – Jane Byram
- Guest Clinician – Robert “TrailMeister” Eversole
- Next Generation Packers: Passing It On – Rick Mathias, BCH of Montana
- Camping Without a Camper or LQ; Knot Tying; Trailer Care – Marty Bjornstad
- Solar Panels, Batteries and Refrigerators Demystified – Chuck Regimbal
- Equine First Aid – Dr. Jack Gillette
- “Lady Long Rider” movie & Popcorn – Buckhorn Range Chapter
- Crosscut Saw Competition - Wenas Chapter
- Cowboy Church – Jack Gillette
- Hoof Fundamentals – Christine Cline

NEEDED or WANTED:

- Hotel Coordinator
- Master of Ceremonies for Saturday night, not as auctioneer
- Signage Person (a lot of this work is already available electronically)
- Publicity person or team
- Key Meister (unlocking and locking buildings)

DO YOU WANT TO SEE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES -*Volunteers needed, either as individuals or as a Chapter.* All contests need to be managed & judged with any prizes procured and awarded. The Rendezvous and BCHW Publicity can help advertise, just share the info with publicity@bchw.org

- Packing demos
- Table Decorating Contest
- Photo Contest
- Friday night Potluck organizer
- Friday Night entertainment
- Saturday night entertainment after the auction
- Dutch oven cooking demo or contest
- Anything in the Bloom Arena – clinician, demos, etc.

Other ideas - and volunteers

If your chapter cannot physically organize and run an event but you would like to contribute, please consider sponsoring an activity with a donation. It does take \$\$ to put on an event like this. All proceeds go to the BCHW state general fund

Volunteers, questions or concerns? Just ask!

rondy2022@bchw.org email goes to both Jen Bond and Teri Starke

PBCH Member Interview: *BARB MALENG*

By Melissa Halpin

Horses come to all of us in different ways. Barb Maleng was not born into a home surrounded with horses. Horses came later and it was horses that brought love into her life. Here is how it happened.

Around age 40, Barb found herself single after years of marriage. She began raising 4 children by herself. Having earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Maryland and Special Training at University of California, Berkeley, she accepted a very prestigious job at Western Washington University. She moved to Bellingham, Washington.

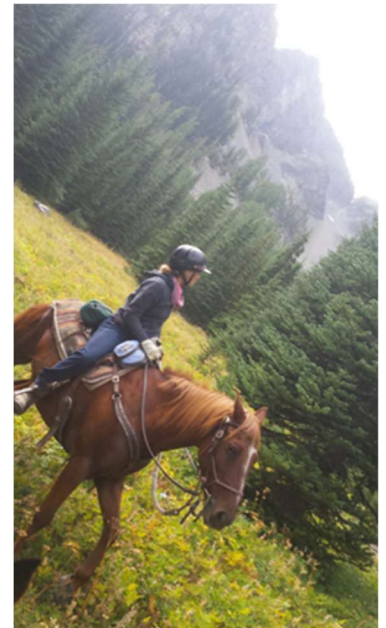
There were no horses in her life at this time. She settled into her new home to work and raise her kids. Her house was close to a pasture that boarded horses. One day she looked over her situation and decided that horses would be in her life and there is a pasture just waiting. She bought her first horse(s) and off she went. A new husband and dating would have to wait. The horse bug had bitten.

Barb joined the Whatcom County BCH to learn about riding and horses. She said this group was wonderful, knowledgeable and taught her so much about horses. Over the next ten years she stuck to horses and kids. She learned to ride and train horses herself. The kids rode as well.



At the end of this ten-year period Barb was at her hair stylist and mentioned she wanted to sell a horse. The stylist knew of a man, Randy Maleng, that was looking to get into the hobby of horses. He happened to be single also. As he was purchasing his new horse from Barb, he asked her if she would show him about horses and the trails in the area (pretty sly there Randy!). Well, you guessed it. He roped in a good woman. (We will get Randy's own story for the newsletter in the near future).

By this time the WWU job came to an end and Barb joined employment at Samson Estates Winery in Bellingham. She spent the next 12 years becoming knowledgeable about the wine industry and grew into an all-around employee in the wine business that could do it all. She is certainly very industrious and accomplished.



Horse riding and training and trail riding continued with Randy. Randy helped with the chores, (lol). At our last Soup PBCH meeting, it sounded like those two were riding anywhere and everywhere, getting a ton of horse experience. Between the two of them, they were now raising six kids; Randy has two of his own.

Barb and Randy moved to northwest Spokane just this March of 2021. The kids have mostly grown and gone. Barb has ten grandchildren and one great grandchild. You would think it would be time to slow down and rest, but no, they are having an addition built on to their new house as we speak. Its not done as of this writing.

Barb's most recent horse is a Gypsy Vanner, a mare, 6 years old named "Gypsy", (what else?). Gypsy was a filly when Barb began pouring her heart and soul into her. But as each year progressed, Gypsy was proving to be a problematic horse. Questionable behavior began showing up out of the blue. Gypsy right now is with some trainers near Yakima. They are going to give Barb sort of an ultimate answer with what the next steps could be going forward with Gypsy. The tone of Barb's voice revealed how much she tried and tried to make Gypsy be more consistent. I could sense her heart breaking a little.

Barb has had so much success with many horses that she started as foals. Most of her foals have lived into their 30's. Right now, she is also riding her 27 year old Fox Trotter, "Copper", that she started just like Gypsy. Let's send Gypsy some positive energy, you never know about horses.

Barb wants to find people to ride with. Hellooooooooo, here I am !!! Judy Babb in the last newsletter is also looking for riding partners, however Judy is taking a hiatus from riding right now to help out with family. All of this horse riding interest falls into the lap of Patty Wright in our group. Patty has volunteered to put PBCH group rides together. This sounds like a lot of fun, when the weather permits.

One last item, Barb has shown an interest in providing a KNOT TYING class for one of our meetings. She enjoys teaching knot tying.



Thank you Barb, for letting us get to know you !!



Columbia Plateau Ride

By Ken Carmichael

On Sunday, November 7, five PBCH members took a nice, but cool, ride on the Columbia Plateau Trail.

This trail, managed by State Parks, is part of the Rails to Trails Program where old railroad beds are converted to multiuse trails. The Columbia Plateau Trails goes from approximately Cheney to Pasco, 130 miles, and passes through the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. There are several trailheads along the trail.

We entered the trail at the Cheney trailhead about a mile outside of Cheney on the Cheney Spangle Rd. You need to be going slow as the entrance to the trailhead, on your left is easy to miss. On this trip we rode until we were half tired then turned around. Given some planning, a group could park vehicles at distant trailheads (see top photo of Amber Lake trailhead) and shuttle back to the trailers making it a one-way trip.

This is very easy riding as it is a level, and very straight, ride with good footing on this portion of the trail. It may be a good place to start riding in the spring. Being a wide trail, it is easy to carry on conversations.

Ride members included:

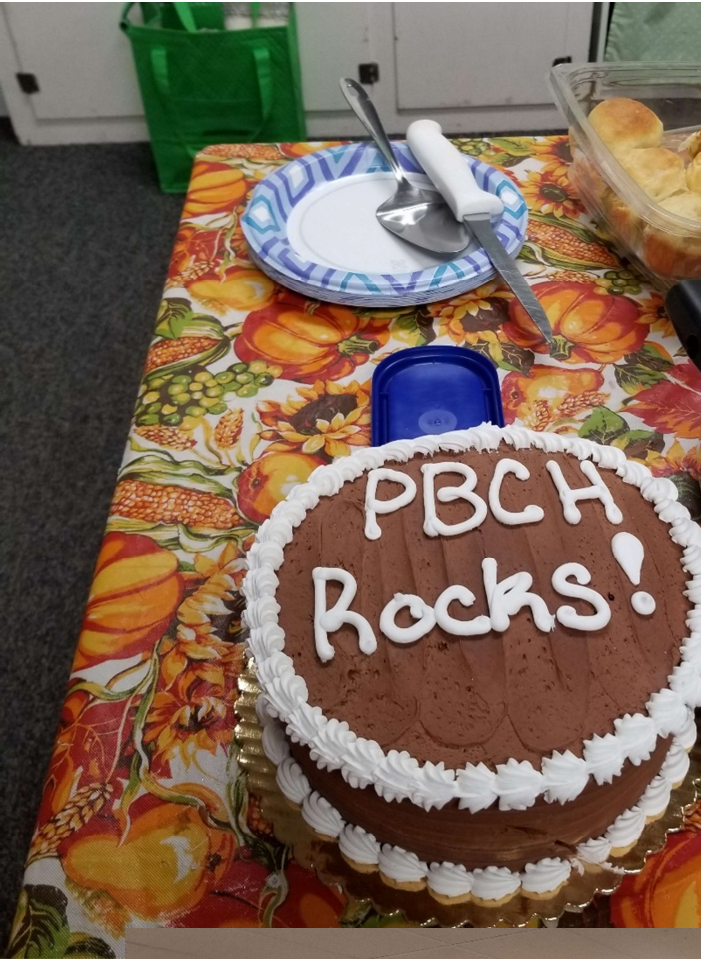
Cindy Miller
Melissa Halpin
Judy Personett – who suggested the ride
Ken and Patti Carmichael

PBCH will be planning more rides and camping trips in 2022. We hope members will enjoy them.





**Soup Social @ November
PBCH Meeting**



BCHA Webinar 101

By Ken Carmichael

The Back Country Horsemen of America held its first webinar for all BCH members. It was not a training program but instead information on how BCHA works, where to find information and how BCHA supports the members, those people with boots on the ground. The Webinar was recorded and will be posted on the BCHA.org website.

I feel it was well worth my time. I served four years as BCHW Alternate BCHA Director and attended four national board meetings. Yet I learned some things, increased my appreciation of what BCHA does and gave me a great deal of incentive to look deeper into the BCHA website.

BCHA believes, as I do, that the strength of BCH is in the chapters, the roots of the organization. This is a bottom-up type of organization where BCHA is here to support the work at the chapter level. And this it does. Another point is that BCH is the organization representing equestrians on the national stage. This is important as many decisions affecting equestrian access to trails are made there.

I cannot adequately summarize what I learned other than saying I encourage everyone to learn more about the benefits of affiliation with a national organization. BCH was formed in Montana in 1973 by four men who believed that the best way to get things done was to work with the land managers rather than just saying no. This is the basis of BCH now. The system works and now there are about 200 chapters in 31 states coast to coast.

BCHA has three governing documents:

- Constitution, adopted in 1987
- Governing Policies adopted in 2011 delegating some authority to an Executive Committee
- Strategic Business Plan for 2019-2023

The BCHA board has two directors and an alternate from each state and meets annually. Washington can be proud of our participation. I cannot think of all the leaders that came from this state, but I know they include past chairmen Darrell Wallace, Mike McGlenn and others. Many of our members have also served on and chaired the committees. Dana Chambers is the Members Data Coordinator.

A quick rundown of the BCHA committees include:

- Fundraising
- Media and Marketing
- Youth
- Public Lands
- Volunteer Hours
- Chapter Support Grants
- Partnerships (Darrell Wallace current chair)
- Education
- Membership
- Expansion

Next time you think about the value of your BCH membership remember the added value that this group brings to the table.

BCH at all levels (chapter, state, national) supports your access to trails, and we need to support them. I challenge everyone to be an active member of BCH wherever your interests, talents, skills, abilities and time fit.



PBCH December Meeting and Party. Yummy food and fun crowd! A good time was had by all!





PONDEROSA CHAPTER OF
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
PRINCIPLES

September 5, 2015

MISSION STATEMENT
Taken from bylaws (required by BCHW)

The mission of this organization shall be:

- 1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.**
- 2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.**
- 3. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.**
- 4. 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.**
- 5. To foster and encourage new members in PBCH and BCHW**

MISSION SUMMARY

To preserve and enhance the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land.

STRATEGIES

- All chapter members participate and contribute to the mission
- Provide meaningful resources to the land managers
- Influence decision makers and public
- Practice and communicate the Leave No Trace Principles

VISION

Back Country Horsemen continues as a premier resource focused on keeping trails and related facilities open for equestrians.

HOW

Maintain a viable non-profit organization where all chapter members participate and contribute in one or more of the following: work parties, education, advocacy and/or supporting activities.

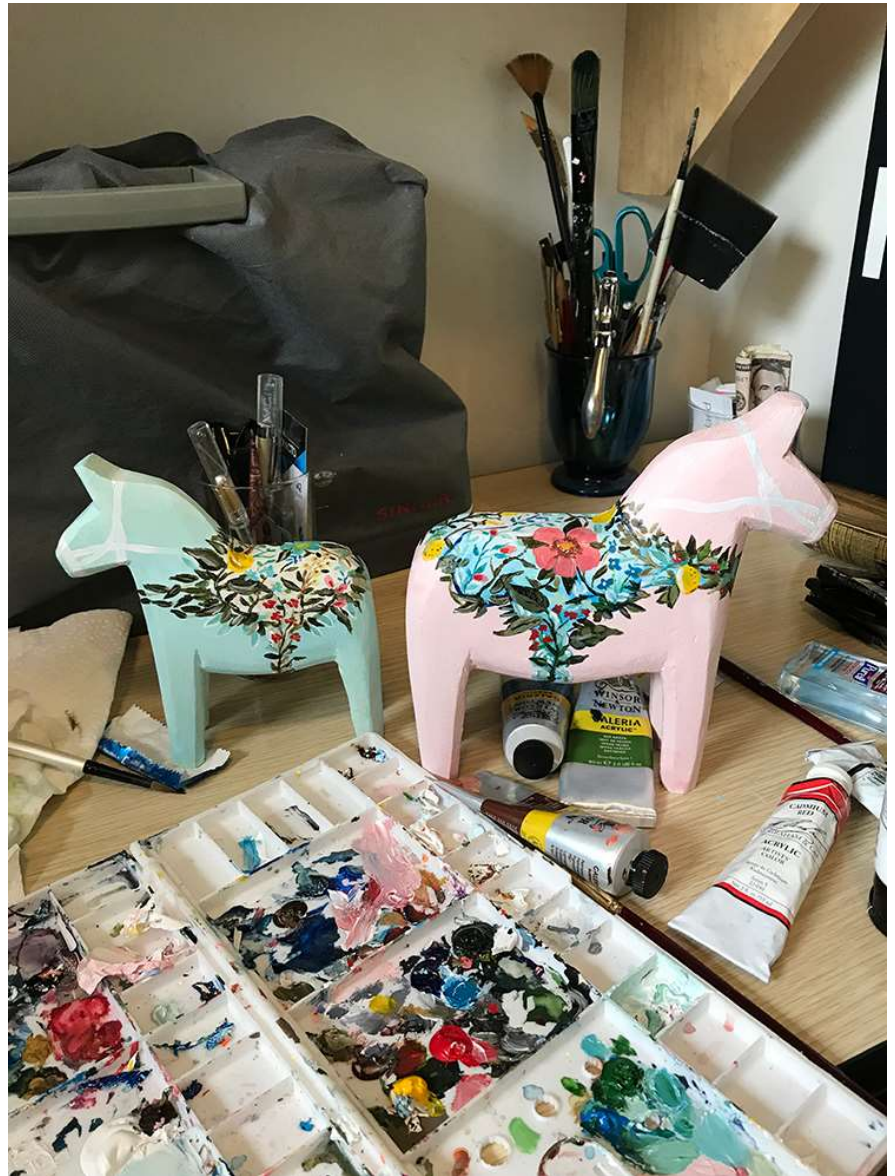
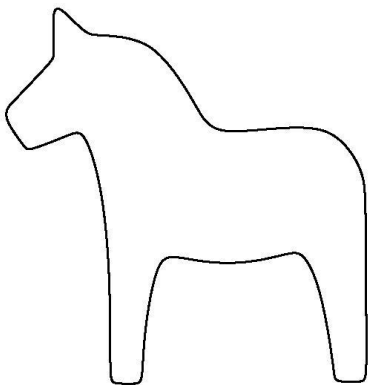
Concentrate and direct the energy of a small, cohesive group towards the common priority of accomplishing the BCH mission. This will provide an efficient, responsive and effective BCH chapter working for the benefit of the equestrian community.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! Happy Holidays!

I am still in the throws of buying and making and sending Christmas gifts and cards. I found a DIY (Do It Yourself) Dala horse link! (<https://thehousethatlarsbuilt.com/2018/05/diy-dala-horse.html/>).

You may have noticed in the past, I really like Dala horses, or Dala Häst. Their shape reminds me of fjord horses, though the Dala horse is more typically Swedish, not Norwegian. If you prowl around the internet, you will see that Dala horses are currently considered a good luck symbol. In the past they were gifts that painted furniture salesman gave, or they were gifts that Swedish soldiers gave in return for food, or they were carvings made by lumber jacks in the winter, or perhaps they came from the Vikings. It was probably all of the above. The flower paintings on the Dala horses are a Swedish style of painting.

I probably won't actually paint a dala horse, since I don't enjoy painting and will leave that craft to more talented people.



But
perhaps

Christmas cookies... or maybe a little cloth dala horse ornament?
Wouldn't it be cool made out of flowered cloth?

Or maybe, the fjords themselves will get a little bit of holiday decoration!

If you want to try a simple version out of plywood or cloth, here is a link to a shape pattern

<https://patternuniverse.com/download/dala-horse-pattern/>.

Good luck with all your creations!

Michelle

We are happy to use the newsletter for PBCH member classified ads, including for sale, in search of, etc. Please send any ads to the newsletter editor.

Want Ads:

Wanted: Loader to move manure at Escure Ranch manure bins a couple times a year. Do you know of someone in the vicinity with the right tools? Other ideas on how to address the manure challenge? Please contact Ken or Tom with ideas.

Announcement:

New Owner - local arena available for haul-ins By Carol Klar



Michelle and I did a bit of sleuthing recently, and visited [Cliff Canyon Ranch](#) at 7311 N Garfield Rd. We met the owner, Kristina Cooper, and got a little tour. Kristina purchased the 30-acre property one year ago, which was previously owned by Cinda Newby. Cinda passed and the facility sat vacant for quite some time. Kristina has been busy at work, tending to repairs. She has different boarding options available and allows haul-ins for \$10. The indoor arena is spacious with good footing. There is also an outdoor arena and track, plus the facility is near the Deep Creek Trailhead at Garfield Rd. Kristina is happy to have visitors and haul-ins. If interested in riding there, please call ahead, to be sure the arena is clear: 509-385-4164. She was amenable to having BCH use the facility for some events as well.

From the Editor:

I invite you all to continue to send me your stories, tips, jokes, articles, photos, words of wisdom, or whatever. I especially would like to encourage our officers and committee chairs to share their thoughts, visions and projects. The goal here is to make the newsletter fun, entertaining and informative.

Please send me photos of you and your equine buddy so I can highlight you in our newsletter. Introduce yourself to other members with background on you or your horse. Or, Melissa will be happy to interview any members for the newsletter.

Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor



Clipart-library.com

PBCH Officers

PRESIDENT

TOM BIRGE

VICE PRESIDENT

CAROL KLAR

SECRETARY

PATTY WRIGHT

TREASURER

DIANA BIRGE

STATE DIRECTOR

KEN CARMICHAEL

ALT. STATE DIRECTOR

LARRY GRINSTEAD

The Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Doug Bailey, Trail Boss; Michelle Eames, Newsletter; and Melissa Halpin, Spokane County Lands Coordinator.