

The Trailhead News

Vol. 51 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2026



Duckabush Trail Stock Access Restored

See article on pages 10-11



www.bchw.org

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Cover Photo: Biskit at Ten Mile camp, where no horses or mules have been in perhaps a couple of decades. Photo by Rachael Taylor-Tuller.

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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		2026 Sustaining Level		Ruby Irving-Hewey.....MTA	
Mitch Baird	IND	Sheila & Bud Blakely	NEC	Beau & Kelly Lacrosse	IND
Scott Bauer	CHC	Sherry Brown	SCR	Michele & Lee McGehee.....	GHC
Amanda Biles.....	TAH	Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	Daren Moorman.....	PSR
Penelope Booker	IND	Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Kris Moran.....	GHC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Charles Morgan	GHC
Caleb Canby	MVC	Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Sheila Richards	NEC
Tawney Carrier	PSR	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Janis Collett	PCC	Sherrie Elliott.....	NEC	Lance Skelton & Sonia Warning	OVC
Steven & Carol Crapson	CCR	Bruce & Kathy Foreman.....	NEC	David Smith DVM.....	TAH
Missy Day	TAH	Robert Gish & Gloria Dennison	NEC	Michael Torok.....	MVC
David Jackson	PSR	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty	MVC	Joan & Ben Wildman.....	PNC
Kris Lenke	BHR	Mary Kane	TAH		
Lori Lennox	GHC	Lorraine Karmen	CHC		
Kim Merrick	NSC	Bill Kehner	IND		
Heather Moorman.....	PSR	Jennifer & Terry Maestas	GHC		
Dan Nelson	CCR	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND		
Jason Ridlon.....	IND	Jeanette O'Keefe	MVC		
Kathy Russo	IND	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC		
Samantha Sandford.....	MSH	Kathleen Parshall.....	TAH		
John Scherrer	CHC	Gary & Janis Pegg	MSH		
Dave Seibel	MOC	Joann Reider	TAH		
Bob Shonka.....	IND	Heather Spencer.....	PNC		
Teri Starke.....	IND	Darrell Wallace.....	NEC		
Laura Talaga	NEC	Bob & Lyriss Wooldridge	MAC		
Cathy Upper.....	MVC	JoAnn Yost.....	GHC		
Barbara Woo	CHC				
Pat Wyers	MAC				
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None		Earl & Dorothy Aalseth.....	CHC		
2026 Patron Level		Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Gene Brent	TAH		
Edris Kenan	TAH	Ken & Patti Carmichael.....	NEC		
Mike & Chris McGlenn.....	WCC	Jan & Jim Craghead.....	CCR		
Dale Merten	LCC	Sue and Greg Duffy	RRR		
Drew & Rachel Scott	CCR	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
Bob Showalter.....	RRR	Kerry & Gary Graves	CHC		
Brenda & Greg Wiebe	MAC	Bruce & Gigi Hiebert	TAH		
Nancy Wiest.....	PCC	Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR		
Bonnie Witrak.....	TAH	Robert Humes	PCC		

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

Laarin Lee Barber

Trygve Culp

Marianne Finrow

Jim Murphy

BettyRae Shonka

Doc Wesselius

Carol Wilcox

Teunis Wyers

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.

Sláinte



BCHW 25th Anniversary Winery Ride

**Saturday
October 31, 2026**



**Come sample amazing wines with good friends while riding in the
Rattlesnake Hills wine growing region of the Yakima Valley**

EARLYBIRD REGISTRATION IS \$35 OR \$45 IF POSTMARKED AFTER OCTOBER 1

- HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST & RAFFLE PRIZES
- WINE TASTING
- DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE- NO HOOKUP OR AMENITIES
- OPENS 10AM FRIDAY

**Go to BCHW.ORG or email
BCHWWINERYRIDE@GMAIL.COM
for complete details, including registration,
costs, schedule, and directions**



**Scan this QR code to go
directly to the website for
access to ride information
and the registration forms.**

BCHW's 25th Anniversary Winery Ride 2026



PHOTOS BY THOMAS CAMPBELL

Photos from 2025 Winery Ride.

By Barb Thomas, Chair

Almost every time I attend an equine event in SW Washington, I meet people who have heard of the winery ride, know a friend who has gone and is hoping they can come and experience this event.

If you are one of those...this year is the time to jump on board and experience this unique gathering. We still have plenty of camp sites open, fuel prices are

coming down and we have almost double the land we have had for the past few years.

For more information and to register on line, go to bchw.org/events. You can see pictures of past events in our gallery too!

This event is one of two fund raisers for BCHW and with our profit-sharing program, a fund raiser for our chapters. Hope to see you there! 🍷

Below is the list of Participating Wineries

- Bonair Winery
- Dineen Vineyards
- Hyatt Winery
- Knight Hill Winery
- Paradisos del Sol Winery and Organic Vineyard
- Tanjuli Winery
- Two Mountain Winery
- Van Arnham Winery
- Whitman Hills Winery



PHOTO BY JIM THODE

Photos from 2025 Winery Ride.

Go to Page 16 to fill out Registration form and mail it in.

Go to **BCHW.ORG** or email
BCHWWINERYRIDE@GMAIL.COM
 for complete details, including registration,
 costs, schedule, and directions



Scan this QR code to go directly to the website for access to ride information and the registration forms.

President's Corner



Looking Ahead: A Message from Our New BCHW President

By Heather Moorman, BCHW President

Hello, BCHW! I'm honored to have been elected as the new President of BCHW. Over the past 27 years, I have worked with most of the former Presidents, and I have a lot of respect for them and for how each has helped the organization advance to where we are today.

There are three areas I plan to focus on in this new role:

- maintaining the mission in many ways, but particularly by supporting the Grants program to maximize the resources available to improve and maintain trails and trailheads

- modernizing our business systems to make the administrative work more efficient, allowing folks to spend more time away from their desk and with their horses instead
- growing membership, especially among younger people, by identifying ways that we can be more relevant

Of course, these goals could change based on what the organization shows us it needs, but it's a place to start.

Before I sign off, I want to remind you all that the Winery Ride is coming up soon. I hope to see many of you there, as volunteers or as participants. Thank you to Dana Chambers for serving our organization in this role for the past four and a half years! See you on the trail! 🐾

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

"The wilderness holds answers to more questions than we yet know how to ask."
— Nancy Newhall

**The Backcountry gives much.
Stewardship is how we give back.**



50 Years of BCHW Celebration, April 23-25, 2027

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

What do you want to see at Rendezvous? I need your ideas and where to find those things!

There are several things we know are coming back to Rendezvous. We know Robert Eversole-Trailmeister will not miss our 50th anniversary! Moonshine Line Dancing will teach everyone dances and spin records Friday in the Teanaway. They have a YouTube channel where they teach various line dances so you can learn a variety of dances and be ready to kick up your heels! Of course, the Used Tack



Sale, Auctions, Packing Competition, Truck/Trailer Competition, and other demos. Give me your ideas about what else you want to see!

For a couple of years, we have had recommendations to add events/stuff for kids. To add a kid's zone or space, I need people to manage and staff that area, along with ideas of what to have in the kid's zone. HELP!!

Give me a call at 253-709-5052 or send me an email at tstrk21@msn.com with your ideas and offers of help. 🐾

Tell us how you get outside in the North Hood Canal

Help us shape the future of recreation access in the North Hood Canal ((Brinnon, Quilcene, Dosewallips, Duckabush, Hwy 101). Take the survey now until October 30, 2026.

Learn more about the survey and the Olympic Peninsula Outdoor Recreation Collaborative here: www.opoutdoorreccollab.com/northhoodcanal

**Thank You
Rendezvous 2026
Sponsors!**

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF WASHINGTON

MidState Co-op
Farm Supply & Equipment
Fertilizer Irrigation
Fuel & Propane

Luft
TRAILER SALES

WaFd
Bank



Rules of Horsemanship

By Ken Carmichael

There are all kinds of rules for being around horses. I imagine that the two biggest are Leave No Trace (LNT) and Trail Etiquette. They cover a lot of ground.

I have another that I think hits home and I see broken all the time. I call it my "RULE OF FOUR". Basically, it states:

You need to know four things every time you leave the barn:

- Survival
- First aid
- Food and water
- How to get home

For each of these four items, you also need the following:

- Know what to do
- Know how to do it
- Have the tools/equipment to do it
- Be willing to do it

Taken all together, 4 times 4 gives you 16 things to think about. Then double that number because you are responsible for yourself and your HORSE.

I see way too many people riding that are unprepared to meet the above challenges if they occur. Ninety-nine percent of the time we are fine, but even a day ride can turn into a disaster. I do not think that any individual can be prepared for every circumstance, but together we should. For example, a horse is cut badly. I carry one vet wrap, but I have seen where we pooled all the vet wrap on the ride to get the horse home.

Everyone will not have the same equipment and knowledge. But we should be carrying those items that we are comfortable using. In some cases, we should become more comfortable, such as with first aid, survival, and map reading courses. We cannot always depend on a cell telephone or someone else to take care of us.

Here are some quotes provided by the Boating Safety Program Manager at the state park commission meeting that I thought applied to horses:

- A danger foreseen is half avoided.
- Accidents hurt – safety doesn't
- If you don't know what is going to happen, there is no way to stop it. Plan for safety

Riding is a fun sport, but we need to think about what we are doing and plan for the unexpected. Happy Trails 🐾

Thanks

By Ken Carmichael

Since this is a BCH newsletter, I cannot refrain from thanking BCH for what it has brought into my life.

I joined the Inland Empire chapter in January 1987. I started to make a list of all the benefits I have received by being a member of BCH, but that becomes too personal. Let it just be said that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some fantastic individuals and organizations to accomplish a great mission of keeping trails open. This would not have been possible without BCH.

I have had the opportunity to work at the chapter, state, and national level, all of which serve a purpose of keeping trails open. It is wonderful to see what can be done when people work together for a common goal.

BCH has also provided the opportunity for me to work with people outside the organization, such as State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, county and other recreational groups with a common goal.

I have gained from attending and participating in many educational opportunities, including, among others, Leave No Trace, first aid, land management, packing, safety, horse management, and the list goes on.

BCH has provided a way for me to contribute to the community, gain from the experience, enjoy my horses, meet great friends, and have fun. Personal note: I met my wife at a BCH meeting.

It is my hope that other equestrians avail themselves of the great opportunities that BCH provides. Please do not pass up what BCH offers. Thanks BCH 🐾

2026 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By BCHW Awards Committee

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 Chair, Volunteer Committee member, or an UNELECTED 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 Last year BCHW chapters and businesses sponsored BCHW Awards. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in nineteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. You, your chapter or businesses support for the BCHW Award Program will sponsor one of the award categories. Also remember that with our 501(c3) there is a tax advantage for award donations. Thank you for your support! 🐾

2026 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

Email Nomination Forms to:

awards@bchw.org

Must be received before February 25, 2027



Please clip out and mail



Duckabush Trail Stock Access Restored



Harold Wiese testing the newly-repaired corner and drop at 5.5 miles.



Matthew Tuller leading the pack string approaching Ten-Mile camp.

By Rebecca Wanagel, Trail Director, Peninsula Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Have you ever taken a ride or hike up the gorgeous Duckabush Trail? It is a remarkable journey. The fact that this even CAN be ridden or enjoyed in your hiking boots is thanks to volunteers. Washington Trail Association (WTA), using volunteer crew leaders, has been primarily responsible for keeping the Forest Service section open while the Gray Wolf Trail Crew, part of Peninsula Chapter, does the same for the Olympic National Park (ONP), as far as Upper Duck camp and even beyond to O'Neil Pass and Lacrosse Basin.

Some history:

The Duckabush has suffered two devastating fires. 2009 brought lightning which ignited a fire between Seven-mile and Ten-mile camps. 2011 found the Duckabush burning again, this time caused by a human's unextinguished campfire. Named the Big Hump fire, it damaged approximately 3 miles of trail.

The problems caused by these burns are numerous: rocky and eroded trail, encroaching brush and young trees trying to revegetate the forest floor, exposed and slippery bedrock, unstable scree

slopes, and trees that drop by the dozens all these years later. Yet despite all that, the trail remains open.

However, the toll this has taken on volunteer trail workers and packers has been great. In the past, BCHW packers used to drop our gear at Five-mile camp for us to work in the ONP, which starts at 6.5 miles. That meant untold miles of schlepping tools to and fro and double trips to move camp gear. That's on top of clearing dozens if not hundreds of trees with chainsaws over many difficult miles, and sometimes utilizing power brushers to gain some upper hand on the post-fire brush invasion. Keep in mind, getting our equipment even as far as Five-mile camp posed great risk to the packers. Some areas of slippery rock were dangerous and scary. Pack bumping trees, narrow tread, etc.

Our tools got dropped at Five-mile camp because the packers would not go past an erosion problem at 5.5 miles. That is a sharp curve where the tread, 30 feet above the river, had narrowed so that rock abutted far into the travel zone. Mules and horses were one highly probable pack bump away from falling to the river. No

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Rachael Taylor-Tuller arriving at Seven-Mile camp with Biskit.



Want Some Grant Funding to Support Trail Work?

By Darrell Wallace, BCHW Grant Committee Chair

The Recreational Trail Program (RTP) offers two-year grants for trail maintenance on public lands. BCHW has been very successful for many years at getting these grants, which support both volunteer work by chapters and contracting with corps crews like NW Youth Corps and Washington Conservation Corps. These grants are only available to applications submitted by November of even-numbered years – like 2026! So if you want grant funding in 2028-29, NOW is the time to start your request.

You will need to describe your project. Location? Who administers the property? Do you have their permission? How much money do you need, and what will you spend it on?

These are just some of the questions our Grant Administrator needs to answer in order to include your request in a BCHW RTP grant application.

Your Grant Liaison needs to contact Grant Administrator Jen Bond bchwgranthelp@gmail.com as soon as possible, no later than September 30th, if you want to apply for RTP in 2028-29. Otherwise, you may be on your own for the next three years! We appreciate those chapters and other volunteers who work with locally raised funds to support trail maintenance, but we want to encourage you to put in a request for grant funds NOW. 🐾

Duckabush Trail Stock Access Restored

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one can quite put their finger on the last time ONP crews packed up there, but it was a couple of decades ago.

Finally, the Gray Wolf Crew took matters into their own hands. Over multiple days, we labored to beat back and down the problematic rock in the Forest Service zone. We worked 5 sections that posed risk and stopped the packers from proceeding. WTA, meanwhile, in communication with the Gray Wolf leader, Rebecca, did some excellent crib wall work to widen tread around a couple of large trees, and continued to tend the ONF portion of the trail (without that, there is no access to ONP). Other safety issues were mitigated as well, and the result is that packers have now – once again – gone past 5.5 miles.

In fact, we recently got packed in for a 5-day crew by Harold Wiese and Rachael and Matthew Tuller. They delivered our tools to Seven-mile camp and ... (drum roll) ... picked our tools up a week later from Ten-Mile camp! There is a lovely stock camp there with a ghost town feel; it had been so long since stock was there.

We logged out about 120 downed trees, and this time we did just enough hand brushing and tread work that we could reasonably get the packers through to Ten-Mile camp, warning that it's still



Elizabeth Storm clearing the trail way up by Lacrosse Pass junction (mile 15).



Paul Kamps doing the final cut of a tree that was overhead and blocking stock.

extremely brushy. ONP has plans to send crews up the Duck for a few pay periods in August. We wanted to pave the way for them to get tools packed in for a deep dive into backlog maintenance, including a more thorough brushing. After their work, stock should be able to get even farther up the valley!

Now that the N. Fork Skokomish has suffered a tragic fire, the Duckabush becomes a primary passageway into the interior of the sublime and rugged Olympic National Park. Volunteers have kept this open, and stock can, once again, get to Ten-Mile camp. Is it easy? Nope. Is it worth it? Oh yes. 🌲

Crow Lake Way Horse Camp – Phase 2



The Wenatchee Valley chapter hosted another work party at the Crow Lake Way horse camp on Hwy 410 up Chinook Pass in June to complete phase two in refurbishing the camp. This year, we put in another large picnic table in the day parking area and installed three more hitching rails donated by one of our chapter members, Sherrie Murphy; two rails in the day parking area and the third rail was installed by the outhouses in camp. We also replaced and secured a new fire ring in the group area in camp. A bridge just north

of camp on the Pleasant Valley loop trail #999 needed repair. During the 2025 winter season, the Nordic trail groomer knocked out the approaches, creating a hazard, so we added it to the project. The Wenatchee Valley chapter applied for a \$4,400.00 grant from Home Depot for materials to fix the bridge. Special-order timbers were installed at both ends of the bridge, replacing the rotten ones to support the gravel

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Crow Lake Way Horse Camp – Phase 2

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ramps; the railings were all replaced, and cross bracing was installed under the bridge to prevent swaying. To add to our project, a WTA crew given to us from the Naches Ranger District logged out the Pleasant Valley loop trail, supported by the Wenas Valley chapter, and together with the Naches Ranger District, they fixed a bad bog on the wilderness side of the loop, putting in a culvert, packed in by Wenas Valley chapter member Ed Letcher, and fixed the drainage. Multiple

chapter members from Tahoma, Ellensburg, and Purple Sage Riders chapters, plus 2 members of the Cascadian hiking group and one member of the Nordic group, all participated in making this project a huge success... partnerships working together! We were told that the camp has been getting much more use since we started this project in 2025. We hope you will come check it out for yourselves! 🐾



BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

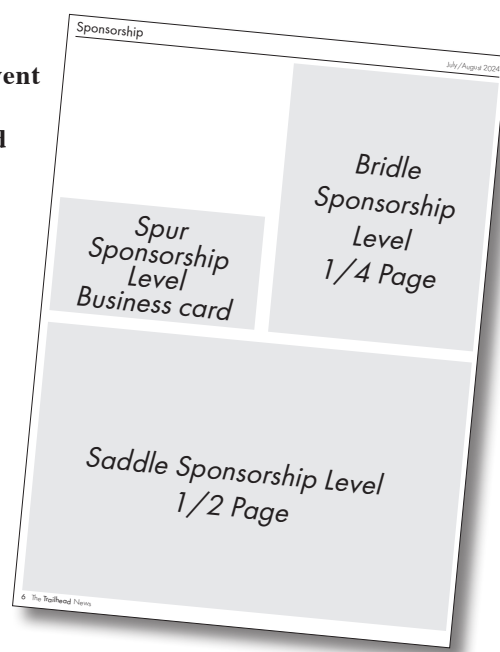
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

All levels of sponsors will be listed on the Sponsors' page of our website.

- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 9.7K 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

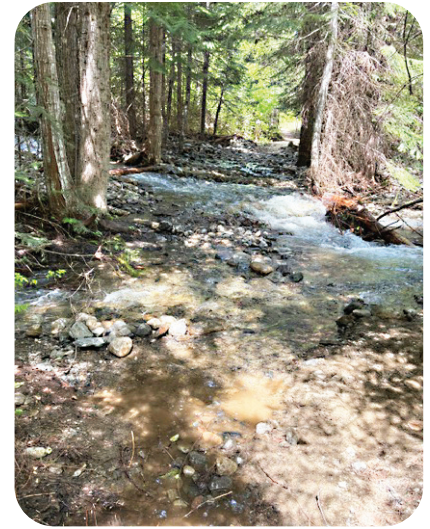


Contact treasurer@bchw.org for more information

Hello Black Piners!



Cement ford on Icicle Road just past Black Pine camp is now dry.



Newly diverted creek running across Jack Pine trail east of Black Pine camp.

By Barb Talbot, Pierce County BCHW Chapter

We did the best we could with the weather event in December that was thrown at us. With the temporary loss of Black Pine Camp due to the road washout, we had to get creative as to where to put stock overnight. There is room for 3 rigs at the Jack Creek Trail Head. We also parked rigs along the Icicle road. This is not ideal. Stock is not allowed to camp at these 2 places. The log load was very heavy this year, and most of the stream fords needed work and, a lot of times, a rebuild. We all had to live in soaked boots and pants for days on end. Most of us were able to pack into Black Pine camp or French Creek camp right after we pulled into the trailhead after a 6-hour drive because it was logged out to those places. However, the closest place for the Jack Creek team to camp stock was 5 miles in, and they had to camp in the parking lot until they got it logged to the camp. Yes, this wasn't cool, but the Meadow Creek Hunter camp is the crown jewel of our trail system. We did the best we could to make it low impact and make the best of it for all users in a less than ideal situation.

Our Black Pine Camp is our central gathering place to meet up with all of our working friends from all over the state. We shared meals, we traded tools, and we had safety meetings. Because we had to unload and go at the trailhead, each team had to have separate safety meetings. This led to some confusion, which was difficult to clear up over InReach satellite communication. It also led to misunderstandings. Had we been able to meet at the camp and have face-to-face interaction, these things could have been cleared up. Because of limited trailhead parking, we had to limit the number of workers and didn't advertise work parties as much as usual. Enough griping, now for the good stuff.

The Jack Creek team logged to Hunter Camp and got it cleaned up with the help of a couple of awesome WTA sawyers. The Jack Creek ford was a mess. A Big thanks to Mike Sinclair for pulling logs out of the ford in thigh-deep 40-degree water. They spent the 4th of July work party cleaning up the camp and making access to

water for the stock. Cradle Lake and the Saddle will have to wait for next year.

The Trout Trail team, including trail runners and Boy Scouts led by Zak Steigmeyer, got a million logs off Trout. They had to leave one big ugly spruce that stock can't get by about 1/2 way up, just past the switchbacks. Our 5' saws just don't cut it on these big trees.

The Jack Pine Trail got a facelift right off the bat as packers, and our crew had to use it to access Icicle Trail. The little stream just on the east side of camp where we water our stock turned into a raging river during the December storm. The Black Pine Creek with the cement ford on the Icicle Road got diverted to the now big stream on the east side of Black Pine camp. A ford had to be made. This big stream is what caused the road washout and closure on Icicle Road.

The Icicle Trail to Frosty Wildhorse trail presented us with many 2-hour big log projects and one temporary reroute. Once the widow maker falls (maybe next winter), we can cut the log on the original trail. It took 4 days to log the 3 1/2 mile section. It usually takes us a day.

Current status of trails in Black Pine area...

- Jack Creek Trail to Meadow Creek Hunter Camp open to stock
- Trout Trail 2 1/2 miles open to stock
- French Creek 3 1/2 miles open to stock
- Icicle Trail to Frosty Wildhorse Junction open to stock
- Icicle/ Frosty Wildhorse Junction to Lake Margaret open to stock.

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Hello Black Piners!

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For the 4th of July Work Party, the French Creek crew got packed into French Creek Camp by Icicle Outfitters. They got 3 1/2 miles logged. Stream crossings were not a problem. The Icicle/ Frosty got packed into the camp at Icicle / Frosty Wildhorse Junction. We had to rebuild the ford on Doughgod Creek 3/4 of a mile in. We cut a few more logs and came to a 5-foot log across the trail. We only had a 5' saw. We made a temporary work-around. That took a day. Apparently we needed another challenge. We encountered a loose root wad on the top arm of a steep switchback that went across the bottom of the switchback. We needed rigging, more people, and more time, so we built another temporary workaround again. That took a day. Out of 3 hard days of ford and trail rerouting, we got 2 miles of trail logged out. 2.2 miles to go to Lake Margaret.

We were originally supposed to have the Forest Service pack the WCC crew into Lake Margaret on July 16th. Since we didn't

get logs clear, we had WCC packed into Icicle Frosty camp. We also had a BCHW saw crew packed in by Icicle Outfitters. Between all of us, we got it logged to Margaret. We also laid out the Edgy Ledge II project between Frosty Pass and Mary Pass to Sam, the leader of the WCC crew. This is supposed to happen on the WCC second stint starting July 30 - August 6. The Little Giant Fire may have something to say about that. I will keep you posted.

Thank you, everyone, for your especially hard work at the Black Pine Work Parties this year. All of your work hours have enabled us to hire a WCC young adult crew for two stints through grants this year!

Remember that all of these trails have tread in places that is less than ideal due to the December weather event. Please use caution! 



Large log on Trout Trail that is still an obstruction 2.5 miles from Jack Creek junction.



Large log across Frosty Wildhorse trail.

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2026 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!

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

Back Country Horseman of Washington Annual Winery Ride and Costume Contest

Saturday Oct. 31, 2026

*Do you want to camp onsite at basecamp for the event? (Circle one) YES NO

*Are you driving in Saturday morning and leaving Saturday Night? (Circle One) YES NO

Print clearly with no more than one address per form.

We must have all riders' full names. Camping must be prepaid to guarantee your camp site.

Please register separately for each camping spot. Additional Riders in your group will have to register separately.

Any mail in registration must be postmarked by Oct. 10th, or YOU MUST REGISTER ON SITE ON 10/30 AND 10/31.

Name _____ Camping with? _____

Spouse/Child if riding _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

DO NOT MAIL OR EMAIL REGISTRATIONS AFTER 10/10/2026.

Winery Ride - \$35 each (increases to \$45 after 10/1) # of riders you are paying for # _____ \$ _____

Child under 16 accompanied by paid adult - \$10 each # of riders you are paying for # _____ \$ _____

Camping at the new Base Camp is \$80 for Friday and Saturday night. \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

Important dates, deadlines, and information:

- No Refunds or transferring funds to a replacement rider after Oct. 15, 2026
- Check-in time: Friday (10/30) 10am – 7pm and Saturday (10/30) 7am – 11:30am
- Every rider or non-riding guest, must sign a Liability Release
- Costume Judging: Saturday between 9:30am – 11:00am at Base Camp only
- Last rider out at 11:30am on Saturday
- Prizes & Wine must be claimed by 8:00pm on Saturday 10/231
- If you have any questions, please email us at bchwwineryride@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952
- Registration forms and flyers can be printed from our website, bchw.org

Method of payment: Check made out to BCHW or Visa _____/Mastercard _____

Credit Card registrations can be done online too! Go to bchw.org under Events.

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV # _____

Name on Credit Card _____

(Address where does your credit card statement mailed to you)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail completed registration w/fees to: Winery Ride, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391

(Cutout and return to address listed)

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.

Tahoma Chapter BCHW 36th Annual Prize Ride

Saturday, September 12, 2026
Gates Open: 7:30 am, Registration: 8:00 am
25258 Landsburg Rd SE, Ravensdale, WA 98051
Cost: \$25.00, inc: Lunch, 4-affle tickets (\$5 ea. addtl. ticket)
Well-marked 6.5 mile trail. No loose dogs.
No stallions, smoking & alcohol
Prize drawings start: 3:00 pm-4:30 pm: Prizes, Gift Certificates, Silent Auction, 50/50 drawing
www.tahomabchw.org

Peninsula Chapter Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

Saturday, September 12, 2026
Time out of first Rider: 9:30 am
Sage Horse Camp
2514 Chicken Coop Rd, Sequim, WA
Register by Date: September 4, 2026
Cost: \$30.00
Cost of BBQ dinner: \$20.00
Cost of camping: \$25.00/night
Email: peninsulabchwchapter@gmail.com
Chapter website: www.pbchw.org

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Heather Moorman
president@bchw.org

Cascade Horse Club - The Golden Harvest Ride

Saturday, September 26, 2026
Pilchuck Tree Farm in Arlington via Lake Armstrong Gate
First Rider out 9:00 am, Last Rider Out 11:00 am
\$20 Entry fee inc. 5 raffle Tickets & PRA Donation
\$5.00 meal tickets, \$5.00 for 4 addtl. raffle tickets.
Children 10 & under are free and get 4 raffle tickets. CASH OR CHECK ONLY. No Stallions, No Dogs on trail or off leash.
Contact: susiecompost@gmail.com, 360-520-4509
or mommabear7817@gmail.com, 425-359-5292

Whatcom County Chapter - Fall Prize Ride Fundraiser

Saturday, October 3, 2026
9635 Heady Rd Sumas WA
First Rider out 9:30, last rider out 11:00
Pulled pork and turkey lunch
\$10 lunch/donation
\$10 each raffle ticket donation
Cash or Checks only
No dogs or Stallions
Contact: melinda smull
Email: mwrsmull@aol.com • 360-595-2137

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/

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Content Deadline for the November/December 2026 Digital Newsletter is October 1, 2026

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

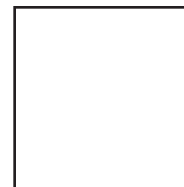
You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

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!



The Trailhead News BCHW
P.O. Box 1132
Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, March 13, 2027
9:00 am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Heather Moorman
president@bchw.org

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 19, 2027
9:00 am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Heather Moorman
president@bchw.org

50th Annual Rendevous 2027

Friday-Sunday, April 23-25, 2027
9:00 am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Early Burd rates avail. before April 1, 2027
Teri Stark, email: tstrk21@msn.com •
253-709-5052

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

September 17: Constitution Day

October 27: Theodore Roosevelt's birthday

November 11: Veterans Day