

The Trailhead News

Vol. 50 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2025

What's Happening In BCHW Trail Operations

See Story on Page 15



www.bchw.org



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Cover Photo: Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) in Pasayten Wilderness 2025, Photo by Tim Van Beek

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January 18.....	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

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

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. 📌

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

President's Corner



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

I can't believe it is September already...I am not going to say how close we are to a weather change or certain holidays...LOL! We have had great weather, and it hasn't been too terribly hot, at least not on the west side of the Cascades. We have accomplished a great deal of work on the trails, and several chapters have had successful and enjoyable rides.

What I want to share with you is an issue with the massive amounts of spam emails that are going out. As I stated in an email to all members, BCHW Leadership and Chapter Leadership won't ever ask members to purchase gift cards. If you receive one of these emails, delete it. Also, emails have been sent out asking if you have time to chat and such. These

are usually spam as well. The emails claim to be from people you may know in the chapter, but the email address is actually a spammer's. Delete these and never forward them. I wish I had an easy fix, but unfortunately, these are creative spammers.

Lastly, we are currently updating the BCHW Website. The home page has a fresh new look. If anyone has any suggestions, is having trouble finding something, or has requests for things they would like to see on our site, please email me at president@bchw.org. We have a Website Committee working hard to make our website user-friendly!

Have a great rest of your summer, and we hope to see many of you at the Winery Ride in October. 🐾

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

Did you know that your chapter newsletter can be uploaded on the BCHW website. It is a wonderful way to effectively promote your chapter and special activities. Check it out under Resources on the website.

Vice President's Corner



Volunteering In BCH

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Vice President

As I sit down to write an article for the THN I think about potential topics. Lately I think I am in a rut because it always comes back to volunteering. We talk about the mission of BCHW, which is important; but it all starts and ends with volunteering.

I look at all the wonderful things that BCHW and the chapters do and the potential for so much more if only we had more people carrying part of the load. I cannot speak for the entire organization, and the list is not all inclusive; but these are just some of the projects that I constantly see crossing my desk:

- **Website design** – everyone can provide input to a committee working to improve a great tool.

- **Strategic Plan** – Where are we headed and how are we going to get there? Again, a small group of people are looking for the answers.
- **Winery Ride** – What a major event that financially supports BCH and puts our name in front of people. It takes 100 volunteers. A terrific way to volunteer.
- **Rendezvous** – This is moved to April 2026. New ideas and events. Volunteers and ideas are needed.

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BCHW Sponsorships Program

We are now offering annual sponsorships!

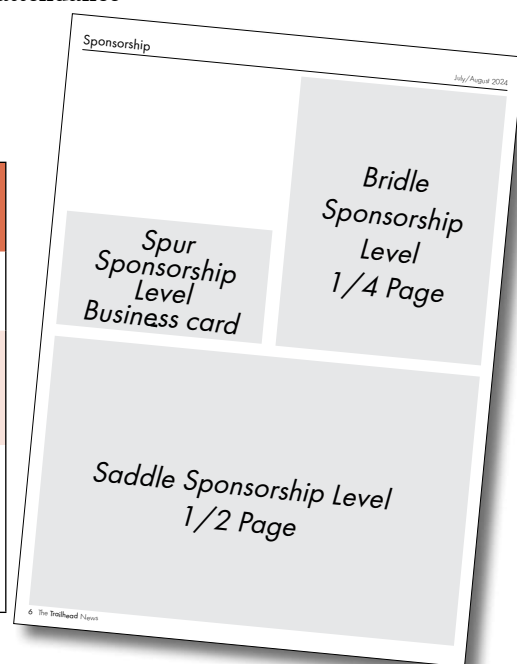
Sponsorship Levels will be for a calendar year and include the benefits listed below.

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

- **Back Country Horsemen of Washington Facebook page has 8.6K Followers**

Sponsorship Level	Benefits
Spur \$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business card-size listing in all 6 editions of our Trailhead News • Your banner displayed at our statewide events
Bridle \$1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

- **The Trailhead News publication goes to 2100+ members**
- **Rendezvous Three-day event gathers 400+ members and 100+ public attendance**



Contact president@bchw.org for more information

BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest



It's August and we have over 300 registered riders. All camp sites are sold out with a waiting list of around 20 people waiting for cancellations or some place to camp. With Yakima County permits in hand, we are almost ready for this year's event.

What we lack are enough volunteers to ensure this event runs smoothly. The volunteer sign-up is around 60, which is usually around 100. We ask that you



remind chapter members to register so we can plan meals and ensure that we have enough volunteers to make this event a success. Go to the BCHW Winery Ride Event page to register as a volunteer.

Remember that this event includes a profit share to chapters and provides funds for small chapters' trail projects. 🐾

Volunteering In BCH

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There are activities where we should stay informed and provide input when asked such as the Legislative committee and Public Lands committee. There are activities where you can help without attending a meeting such as Governance and Bylaws, Awards and Safety. The inside front cover of the THN provides a list of all the BCHW committees.

What about at the chapter level? Where can you help there? Key areas include trail work, fundraising, helping with meetings and education. We need to talk to our chapter presi-

dent and ask how we can help. Maybe offer to plan a chapter meeting education event or host a ride.

It comes down to supporting the mission of BCH of keeping the trails open for everyone. We each have different skills, abilities, talents, interests, and time available. We just need to pick something that fits us.

BCH is a corporation which makes it a legal entity. But it has no power. It is the people in the organization that makes it breathe. Please look around your chapter and BCHW to see what you can do to keep trails open. 🐾



Please clip out and mail



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

2025 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

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

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

2025 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

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

Nominees' Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Information to include in your nomination presentation:

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

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

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

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

Must be received before February 1, 2026

Riding Together Growing Stronger: How Trail Time Builds Community



By Carolyn Sanders, Olympic Chapter BCHW

There's something about swinging into the saddle alongside good friends that brings purpose to a ride. For the Olympic Chapter of BCHW, our campouts, trail rides, work parties, and volunteer trainings do more than just check the boxes of recreation and stewardship—they forge friendships, deepen our collective knowledge, and strengthen the mission we all ride for.

Over the past few months, we've explored new trails, hosted educational events, and pitched in on trail maintenance, all while growing as a chapter. Whether it was campfire laughter after a long ride or the teamwork required to clear a downed log, each moment added another stitch to the fabric of our community.

This June, a few of us camped and rode out of Kalama Horse Camp in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. The adventure

was full of scenic trails, unexpected challenges, and, most of all, trust—between riders and horses, and among each other. When one rider was injured, we didn't hesitate to shift plans, offer help, and make sure everyone felt safe and supported. It's in those moments that the true meaning of BCHW shines: preserving trails, yes—but also preserving each other's well-being, spirit, and confidence.

Our "First of the Month" rides and "Third Saturday" rides give members regular chances to connect on the trail. Some of these rides are small, accommodating just two or three riders, while others attract larger groups. What matters is that we're out

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Riding Together Growing Stronger: How Trail Time Builds Community

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there, representing BCHW, modeling safe riding practices, and inviting others to join in the joy of equestrian adventure. We've seen green horses grow braver, new members become more engaged, and seasoned riders evolve into mentors, all through the rhythm of consistent trail time.

Beyond riding, we've shown up for events like Camp Host Training with DNR, emphasizing our commitment to public land stewardship and rider responsibility. We've volunteered our time for trail work parties, shared maps and tips with newcomers, and used our rides to scout trail conditions for future BCHW events. Every activity is an opportunity to lead by example and remind the public that horsemen are allies in the care and accessibility of Washington's trails.

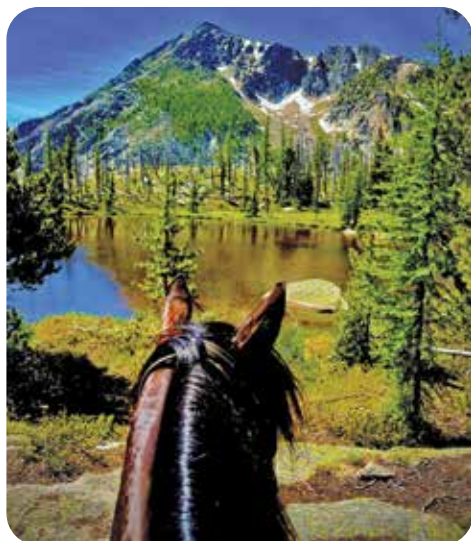
Perhaps most importantly, our gatherings have become spaces of encouragement and friendship. At the end of the day, BCHW isn't just about trails—it's about people. When someone shares their horse's first trail ride, or conquers a fear, or tells a funny story around the fire, they aren't just building confidence—they're building community.

The Olympic Chapter rides with intention: to enjoy the outdoors, yes—but also to educate, include, and empower. With each hoofbeat, we carry forward the values of BCHW and extend the invitation to others to ride with us, learn with us, and steward the trails we all love.

After all, it doesn't get much better than exploring wild places with your horse and your people. 🌿



A Trip to Horseshoe Basin (Eastern Pasayten)



By Kambria and Waylon Moffitt

We drove seven hours to the eastern Pasayten area. We spent two days clearing the trail and then headed into the basin. It was calm and quiet, and wildlife was abundant and unafraid. We set up our first camp at the junction between Smith Lake, Goodenough Trail, and the boundary trail. We figured that would be a great place for all the riding options that we wanted to achieve.

During breakfast, a big bull moose and cow walked through camp, and when Waylon exclaimed, "There's a moose!" they trotted away. On the second day in the basin, we rode up to the top of Armstrong Mountain into Canada. The uninhabited land stretched as far as the eye could see, and we were the only ones around for hundreds of miles. It was neat to see the clear-cut line of trees marking the American-Canadian border.

Once back at camp, we had a nice Jetboil dehydrated "peak" meal and lay down for bed. Then we heard our mule snorting and puffing, so we went to see what was the matter, and a bull moose was standing 20' away, staring at her. As we got out, he walked shyly away, and then we lay back down. And then we heard the snorting again... He had come back to see the horses. It was a young bull, and I think he thought our mammoth mule might make a good girlfriend. He continued to harass us for hours, coming back as soon as we lay down, no matter how many times we chased him off. Finally, he figured our mule might not make a good girlfriend after all and went to find something else to do. The next morning, we moved camp to Loudon Lake because, besides

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BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2024 and the renewal season starts on October 1st. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR SINGLE AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ARE INCREASING.

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

A Trip to Horseshoe Basin (Eastern Pasayten)

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being harassed all night by a moose, the mosquitoes were also pretty terrible and made eating food an unpleasant experience.

Louden Lake was extremely beautiful and more open, and the slight breeze offered some protection from the mosquitoes. We cleared the trail enough for stock to get around and summited Haig Mountain on horseback. Our mule was kicking at her belly and seemed to have an upset stomach, no doubt from the stress of being harassed by a moose the night before, so we gave her the first response that Darlene had recommended, along with additional electrolytes. It seemed to help pretty quickly, and she had a bowel movement right after. We spent the next few days riding to Good Enough Peak and Windy Peak, and checking out Smith Lake. There were quite a few logs down on the way to Windy Peak. We cleared enough to get the horses around, and that took several hours. It could use a polish up, though.

As we headed into the Fourth of July weekend, we were no longer the only ones at the lake and saw six or seven tents. Windy Peak was also busy, and it was so odd to see so many people after

having the entire basin to ourselves a couple of days prior. After being there for a week, we packed up and headed out. We saw four big bucks lying down in the grass, and they slowly got up and meandered off as we approached closer.

Once we returned to the trailhead, we were surprised to see a volunteer crew that had arrived to log out the trail. One of the local gals usually clears it, but she was unable to do it this year, so that's why we went up and did it for her. Hopefully, she will be able to ride again this fall. Such a beautiful area; it was nice to escape the crowds of the west side, even though it took two full days of driving just to get out there and back.

Amongst other adventures there, we were also stalked by a cougar. And although there were lightning blizzards in the forecast a week prior, it ended up being perfect weather while we were there, with a low of 50s and high of 65 or 70 during the heat wave. Highly recommended backcountry Equestrian destination!

Note: A Katana Boy 650 saw works really well in the eastern Pasayten; most of the logs are under a foot wide. 🌿



Bridles and Badges: Boy Scouts Saddle Up for a Day of Learning



By Mickey Hnatovic-Centeno, Olympic Chapter of BCHW

It started with a simple meeting and conversation in the Stottlemeyer parking lot between Carolyn Sanders and a Boy Scout leader about “getting our groups together somehow.”

Next, I, Mickey Hnatovic-Centeno, was asked if I could help the troop with their Equestrian Merit Badge. Easy peasy—I teach lessons all the time and work with 4-H youth – though it did take some extra planning to meet all the requirements in a short amount of time.

You can’t learn to ride in a day, and these boys needed to walk and trot 60 feet in a straight line, as well as ride a 30-meter circle, then halt and back up several steps. Other tasks included grooming, tacking up, learning about different saddles, and bridling.

I use my horses for drill team and was a bit concerned they might respond too enthusiastically to leg cues. (We did talk about “we don’t kick our friends” ??). I stressed most about how to accomplish a straight-line trot, and finally decided that the requirement didn’t say no lead line.

Four chapter members volunteered, and I recruited three of my students with the promise of a trail ride for their time (although I think one cute guy might have been an added bonus!). Wrangler helpers were designated with teal bandanas.

We allocated four hours for the six boys to complete all the tasks, including a lunch break while we switched out horses from the hands-on portion to the riding portion. The horses used are all on the property, and they were on their best behavior! It worked well having one-on-one instruction at each station.

The best part was at the end, when we asked what their favorite part was (predominantly riding!), and what they learned (“How to tie the latigo knot” and “Horses aren’t as scary as they look!”).

Many thanks to Chuck and Betsy Regimbal, Patti Wible, Mescha Manietta and her boys Bandit and Diego, and lastly Rob Centeno for working behind the scenes – bringing coffee and juice and returning horses to the barn. At the end, the leader, Troy, said, “I hope we can do this again sometime!” Again, thank you to everyone who helped! 🍀

Hello Black Piners!



The Diane, Greg and Roger Crew logged Snowall Cradle



Kenny, Mike, and Shawna of the Wenatchee crew logging Cradle Lake Trail

By Barb Talbot

Gosh I love a back country trip out of Black Pine. The beauty is indescribable and the access we have made for stock and hikers who wouldn't otherwise be able to enjoy a wilderness experience is something we should all be proud of. Way to go Black Piners!!!

Things were different in many ways this trip. I just want to focus on logistics for now. Instead of having the entire crew at the Hunter Camp on Meadow Creek this year, we spread out to Frosty Wildhorse Trail On the Icicle side and Snowall Cradle on the French Creek side as well. The Wenatchee Crew of 6 worked out of the Hunter Camp on Meadow Creek Trail. They were able to get the steep Cradle Lake Trail logged.



The Diane, Greg and Roger Crew got the steep switch-backs on the French Creek/Snowall side and up into the first meadows logged before the Big Meadow camp. They also got French Creek logged to the Klonaqua Lakes junction. The Terry and Barb crew got Frosty Wildhorse logged to Frosty Pass and about 1/2 mile logged on Icicle Ridge Trail. Just below Lake Margarete, a significant amount of brushing and rock work was accomplished as well. As always, we got a lot of logs cut and a lot of trail open for the year. Black Piners rock. Having different camps allowed us to get more trail logged out, kind of. Big thanks to Icicle Outfitters who always make time for our projects and pack us in. Next year, we really need 2 teams (when I say teams, I really mean tool boxes) at the Hunter Camp. There are too many trail miles and 2 different trails for one team. Next year, we either put together another tool box team or only have 2 back country camps. Always improving the process and adjusting to change.

I want to say a special thanks to Tim Main who is always looking to keep his mules in shape and help keep our trails open. He really doesn't like to do trail work but we are growing on him. He saved our butts this year by getting the last 1/2 mile of French Creek logged before this work party so pack stock could get up there. He has helped us with pack support through the years and packed Terry and I into Frosty this year. He recons the Icicle Road in the early spring and lets us know

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Hello Black Piners!

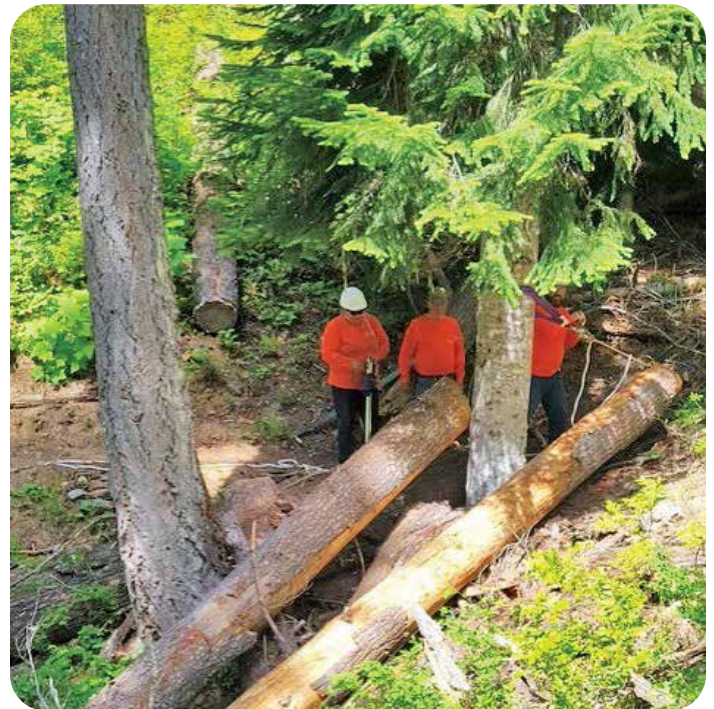
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when it is safe to get a rig up to Black Pine. On every work party, he is our emergency contact. He does all of this and more. Thank you Tim!! By the way, I met Tim when my horse broke down many years ago and he sold me a mule, now I have 3. These mules have been a big part of all the Black Pine projects.

Besides logging the Black Pine trails every year, we have an RTP Grant Allocation comes from gas tax funding. The purpose of the RTP Grant is to hire Youth Crews to do the tedious tread, drainage and brush work that requires young strong backs. We get a certain allocation of money on a 3-year cycle from RTP. To get that money released to our account, our crew has to provide hours of work or "grant match". For example, each hour of sawyer work we do is worth around \$35. We have to work 2 hours (around \$70) as a sawyer to get one hour (\$35) released to our account to go for Youth Crews. The Forest Service has, in the past, paid for half of the Youth Crew expenses. With the cut backs this year, they cannot do this. Yikes, We didn't have enough allocated grant money and match hours to pay full price for a Youth Crew. Now, thanks to BCHW members, private donations to the Trail Opps Black Pine fund, and to Tim VanBeek for finding other money, we are able to hire a Youth Crew. Tim found a WCC (Washington Conservation Corp) Young Adult crew that can work for us. They will work August 21-27. We are putting them 4 1/2 miles up the Jack Creek trail just before the Meadow Creek junction to focus on a major drainage

problem that we can finally get done. There will be some tread and brush work too. We are in the process of working out details.

For a variety of reasons, we have cancelled the Commercial Outfitter work party July 25-July 31. If you haven't gotten your fill of logging this summer, there are 8-10 logs on Snowall/Cradle from the French Creek side. There are also logs from the Hunter Camp on Meadow Creek to the Paddy-Go-Easy Junction. If any of you log these areas, keep track of your hours and let me know what you did. Again, Black Piners Rock! Trail Work On. 🌲



The Terry and Barb Crew logging Frosty Wildhorse





What's Happening in BCHW Trail Operations

By Tim Van Beek, BCHW Trail Operations Manager



PHOTO BY TIM VAN BEEK

It's been an exciting, anxious, and at times frustrating year for BCHW Trail Operations. Like many organizations working on public lands, we've navigated a challenging mix of funding uncertainty, tight timelines, and logistical complexity. Despite the ups and downs, our volunteers and partners achieved impressive progress, particularly at Olsen Creek near Bellingham.

BCHW continued its contributions to the developing Olsen Creek/Stewart Mountain trail system through a strong and growing partnership with the Washington Trails Association. This collaboration has proven to be a winning formula: BCHW provided critical pack support (thanks, Rocky, Roger and Jackie), transporting over 5000 lbs of gravel to the work sites, while WTA brought the shovels, trail crews, and a ton of energy to help push the project forward. This multi-year, multi-phase effort is steadily building a high-quality trail system that will open up exciting new opportunities for stock users. The design of the trail system supports a progression of riding experiences, providing a much-needed entry-level route that helps riders confidently move from arena work to open fields, into the foothills, and eventually into Washington's mountain backcountry.

In addition to that success, we also completed an outstanding project on the Lake Creek Trail in the Methow Valley Ranger District, working in partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps. Scheduling this project was a major hurdle due to the late arrival of information about funding availability. However, with persistence and strong coordination between BCHW and Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) staff, we were able to build a plan that worked for both sides.

The work itself presented major physical challenges. In scorching 95-degree heat, the NYC crew took on a nearly impassable stretch of trail, heavily overgrown with thick brush. Ceano-

thus had overtaken the corridor—reaching over eight feet tall in many areas—completely obscuring the route. A determined crew of eight youth and two crew leaders, drawn from across the country, stepped up to the task. Over the course of the project, they brushed nearly five miles of trail, making it once again accessible and safe for stock use. Lake Creek Trail is another example of an entry-level ride, and, being close to Andrews Creek Trail, it provides opportunities for folks to split up for a different experience.

BCHW Trail Ops is not done for the year! We are still supporting trail crews and getting boots on the ground. Stay tuned for an update.

While it was disappointing to learn that U.S. Forest Service funding for additional youth crews was delayed for 2025, we remain cautiously optimistic. We're hopeful that support will be restored in 2026, allowing us to continue making headway on the significant backlog of essential trail maintenance across the state. Until then, BCHW Trail Operations will continue to do what it does best—find creative ways to keep boots, hooves, and tools on the trail. 🌱



PHOTO BY TIM VAN BEEK

Bridges To Safer Trails

By Carolyn Sanders, Olympic Chapter Publisher BCHW

The morning of June 5, 2025, dawned cool and clear at Gold Creek. The sound of hammers tapping and boots on planks echoed through the forest as five men worked with practiced ease. Harold Weiss, Rob Centeno, Barry Banks, Chuck, and Pete Allen from the Department of Natural Resources had gathered for a mission long in the making.

For months, Chuck had researched the right kind of matting—something tough, weatherproof, and safe for horses' hooves. After digging through suppliers and negotiating deals, he finally secured non-skid panels at a price the Olympic Chapter could afford. With support from DNR, everything was ready.

As the last panel was bolted down, everyone stepped back to admire their work. The Gold Creek Bridge, once a slippery challenge, now stood as a safe, solid crossing. No more tentative hooves. No more risk of slips.

Thanks to a determined team and a little grit, the trails were safer—and the project that once seemed like a long shot was finally finished. 🌿



Content Deadline for the November/December 2025 Print Newsletter is October 1, 2025

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

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

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

ATTENTION!

Trail Etiquette Is A Safety Topic



By Chuck Regimbal, BCHW Safety Officer

Trail etiquette is an understood but not well-published subject. What one considers rude another considers routine. Even so, as the BCHW safety officer, there are a few things I wish to say about trail etiquette.

When riding alone, you do not have an immediate influence over anyone else or their horses. But you are still training your horse for certain habits that will affect others when in a group. When you are in a group, and going single file down a trail, you very much have an influence over others and their horses.

The lead horse sets the mood and pace for the whole line. The leader should look back often to see if the following horses are lagging behind or are fussing. Setting an irregular pace, like trotting up a hill to then return to a walk causes the following horses to accordion the line. A few times doing this and most following horses will become upset. This applies to the lead horse as well as any other horse in line. Keep a constant pace.

When you are out alone, you are also NOT conditioning your horse to accept any position in the line. You will eventually find yourself riding with others, a most enjoyable setting. But there are dynamics at play here. The horses develop a pecking order, especially with unfamiliar horses.

Here are a few suggestions

It takes a bit of patience, but when getting into line to head down the trail figure out the best arrangement of horses. Pasture mates may not want any separation.

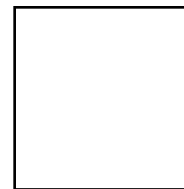
Your horse cannot always be the lead horse so prepare your horse to fall into line, not in the lead.

If a person is having trouble with a fidgety horse, stop the whole line in a safe place and let them settle their horse down, to figure out what the problem is. Do not just continue on. Do not let your horse get in the habit of running up the hill. It is OK to do that when you permit it. But in line, a horse that habitually runs up a hill without the riders consent, will cause problems for others who are restraining their own horse.

Eventually somewhere along the trail, riders will want to pass other riders. That is OK, but do it with the slower rider's consent, and in a safe place. The lead horse person should be keeping track of all horses in the line. If you are organizing a ride, question the participants and try to group faster horses together and slower horses in a separate group. And wear a helmet! 🐾



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.

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 Prize Ride

Saturday, September 6, 2025
Danville/Georgetown Trail System
Maple Valley, WA
Cost: \$25 per person, Inc. Lunch & 5 prize tickets.
Addtl. Tickets \$5 ea
Registration: <https://www.tahomabchw.org/prize-ride>

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 20, 2025
9:00am, Armory
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

24th Annual Winery Ride & Halloween Costume Contest

Saturday, October 25, 2025
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com
for Sign-up and additional information, visit:
https://www.bchw.org/bchw_2025_winery_ride_info.php

Peninsula Chapter Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

Saturday September 13, 2025
Olympic Peninsula: Sage Horse Camp, 2514 Chicken
Coop Road, Sequim, WA
Registration limited to 100 Riders - 8 mile scenic loop trail
No Pass Required
Cost: \$30 (includes 4 raffle tickets, extras @ \$5 each)
First Prize \$300 Visa Card
Limited Camping Available @ \$25 per night, includes 2
corrals (extras @ \$5/night)
BBQ Rib Dinner Available @ \$18 per person
Contact for Questions: 251-261-6188
Chapter Website: pbchw.org
Register on-line: bchw.org/Events

The Golden Harvest Prize Ride Cascade Horse Club

Saturday, September 27, 2025
Pilchuck Tree Farm in Arlington via Lake Arm-
strong Gate
From Hwy 9, turn East on Harvey Creek Road -
Follow the signs.
Susie Spencer • susiecompost@gmail.com •
360-520-4509 OR Meshawn Zinn •
mommabear781@gmail.com • 425-359-5292

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, includ-
ing 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

Sept. 27 — National Public Lands Day
Oct. 10 — World Mental Health Day
Nov. 11 — Veterans Day

