The Trailhead Vol. 45 Issue 4 Trailhead VeVS July/August 2020



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Cover Photo: Cathy Nelson and her mule at the Green River work party last summer. Photo By Jim Thode

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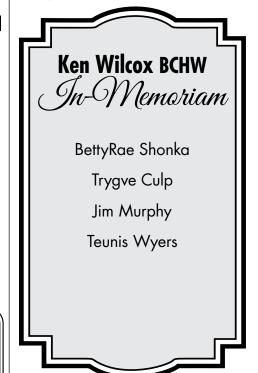
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he Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page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

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lease 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.

July/August 2020 Prez Says





Are We Having Fun Yet?

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

oday, as I write this article, it's hard not to smile only because it hurts too much to cry. The current environment makes planning anything extremely difficult. Seems most counties have entered Phase II of the Safe Start Washington plan. Phase II is allowing certain BCHW chapters and small workgroups to return to some trail projects with the land manager's approval. Setting us far back in our normal schedule for trail maintenance.

The other day I was on a small work party clearing wilderness trails and got to thinking what will our small non-profit look like when we can say the pandemic is over and we return to performing trail work at full capacity. When we were all sheltering at home caring for our equine friends and our close family, most everything came to a complete stop. As you know our trails continued to have trees fall, bridges continued to age another season, trails washed out, and roads... Well, you know the story.

So now what? By my estimate, if you were planning on keeping your equine friend and enjoying the trails, we had better look for ways to keep this pack string moving forward. Again, we will be tasked with working within our BCHW chapters, partnerships, and land managers to develop plans

to keep our trails open. One of the biggest obstacles we have in the foreseeable future is working with land managers (both state and federal) to gain their approval using our past partnerships to advocate and strengthen our ability to maintain and repair our beloved trail system.

BCHW is in a good spot coming out of this pandemic to do just that! We have the work ethic, a strong commitment within our committees, and willing members that will see us back on the trails supporting our mission statement!

What else has been occupying my time? Well, I have spent countless hours a week on the phone with members and committees doing what I can to support their efforts, encouraging them to dream big, and take the initiative to move forward with plans and efforts that support our organization and our trails. We have a lot to gain and little to lose. I have been asking them to think about different ways to do something we have done one way in the past that might work better now in the current environment.

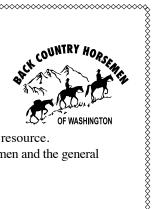
What plans have you been working on? How are you keeping the BCHW spirit alive? Have you visited the revised

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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 insure 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.





BCHW Memberships Expired on Dec. 31, 2019. Please go to BCHW.org and join or renew today so you don't miss out on The Trailhead News. 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 MEMBERSHIPS

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$41.00
Family	\$54.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	
Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00

Prez Says

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website? Have you participated in one of the online auctions? How about donating to BCHW either on Facebook or by visiting the website given we lost one of our largest sources of funding due to the cancellation of Rendezvous? Are you building new leaders by giving them opportunities to solicit their input on problems that we experience when challenges arise with partners, land managers, etc.? How are you using these trying times to improve your chapter, gain members, ask committee chairs' how you can help, or

start a trail workgroup so that we can meet our mission and move our organization forward to further successes? If you are waiting for just a few people to lead the way, we will sit at the trailhead while our partners will be far down the trail. Step up and join the fun.

Hope to see you on the trail or at a work party in the near future.

Add Back Country Horsemen of Washington to your awards account. See the Donate page at BCHW.org for more information.



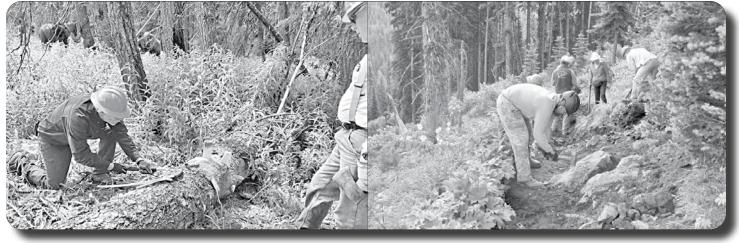


Grants July/August 2020



National Wilderness Stewardship **Alliance Grants Awarded**

By Nicole Sedgwick



Logging out the trail.

CHW applied for two National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) grants. One grant to open trails in the Umatilla National Forest and the other is to support packers for our partner organization's trail workgroups. We just found out that we have been awarded both grants!

Last summer, BCHW went into the Umatilla National Forest for the State-Wide Work Party to begin opening up the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. Danny Chappel and Dave Price of Rattlesnake Ridge Riders Chapter wanted to continue with that work. It has always been important to that chapter to try to keep the Twin Buttes Trailhead to the West Butte Creek Trail, Grizzly Bear Trail, and Slick Ear Trail open for riding. Well, with the help of Back Country Horsemen of Or-



After removing the rocks

Breaking the rocks.

egon (BCHO) and Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association (WMHCTA) this grant will also support opening up and connecting those other trails to the Wenaha River Trail and all of the Elk Flat Trail. BCHW is also looking at finishing the East/West Butte Trail Loop that began last year with the help of the Washington Trails Association (WTA). All told, this grant will support making 39 miles of trails accessible for horsemen and hikers to use.

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Dealing with a mud bog

Grants July/August 2020

NWSA Grants Awarded

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The packing grant is to support the difficult work our partner organizations are doing to help all of us. This includes Washington Trails Association (WTA), Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), and Mountain to Sound Greenway. We will be packing in their supplies as far as 18 miles into the forest. With our support, they hope to work on a total of 41 miles of trails. At



Using a freshly cleared trail.

the moment, we are working with the NWSA to see if we can work some things around as some of our partners are unable to put their usual workgroups together due to COVID-19.

In these uncertain times that we are having right now, it is great to see that we can still make a positive impact on our beloved forests.



Making a bull rail.

Saddle Raffle Ticket Sales to Extend Until Winery Ride 2021

By Nicole Sedgwick

t 2020 Leadership, BCHW began a saddle raffle ticket sale that we had planned to wrap up at the 2020 Winery Ride. Because of COVID-19, BCHW will be postponing the raffle draw until the 2021 Winery Ride.

If you have already bought tickets, you will be contacted to find out if you want to hold onto your ticket or get a refund.

The drawing will now be held on the morning of October 31, 2021. You do not have to be present to win. If you would like to purchase some raffle tickets for \$5 each, please contact Teri Starke at treasurer@bchw.org or Nicole Sedgwick at bchwexec@bchw.org. We plan to sell them in person at all BCHW events as soon as we are up and running again.



Have You Visited the Redesigned **BCHW Website?**

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

he BCHW website (www.bchw.org) has gotten a facelift. In this day and age, most people are accessing websites by their cell phones more and more. The old website was not as friendly to navigate on a phone. The updated modern site is designed to engage users and allow them to explore and quickly find the information they are looking for. If they can't find what they are looking for, they can use the search feature or click "Contact" and submit their questions. One of our intentions was to use the redesign effort to draw in younger people who might be interested in our organization and continue to grow BCHW membership.

We have provided easy access to join or rejoin BCHW. Now members can submit their change of address if they are snow-birding right from the website. We are excited to provide areas for individuals to donate, find upcoming events (such as Auctions and Chapter rides), and find out about the various programs such as Safety and Sawyer.

Members or potential new members can stay up-to-date with Public Lands information under the Resources area. You can find the most current Trail Head News.

We continue to add content to the website so keep visiting it as it one of our main BCHW communication tools. Tell your friends and family about it. Spread the good news! 👗



Hello to All from the Safety Committee

By Chuck Regimbal, Safety Committee Chair

ur newly revamped website has a tab section labeled programs. In that tab there are several safety topics. They are "safety for work parties" and "safety while riding". Within these safety sections are outlines of what to do, and what related documents you should use.

Of importance recently is the cautions to take regarding working and/or riding while the coronavirus is a concern. These documents can be found in the work or riding sections.

The prior website had a lot of documents spread out. The needed documents were hard to find or follow. Some have been rewritten. All the needed documents have been organized in such a manner to be useful to all of our members. These are there for everyone, not just trail bosses or workparty leaders.

> On behalf of the safety committee. Please check this portion of the new website and use it in your BCHW activities. Be Safe. 👗

Out On The Trails

July/August 2020

Carrying On at North Summit Horse Camp



NSHC Site of Pull through parking area for camp site 12 looking south after levelling and graveling.

NSHC Site of pull through parking area for camp site 12 looking South.

By Jan and Bill Ford, BCHW Methow Valley Chapter

e hope that the 16 BCHW chapters and all of the individuals who have made donations for the construction of the North Summit Horse Camp (NSHC), as well as the many other stakeholders, will enjoy using the NSHC this year and in the future.

The contract for Phase II construction of the NSHC was signed by the Forest Service and Methow Valley Chapter of BCH (MVBCH) at the end of April 2020. The signing allowed funds to be spent from the RCO grant (#18-2497D) of approximately \$113,000 awarded to the Forest Service for NSHC in the fall of 2019. It also enabled work to start on-site at North Summit. The terms of this grant include contribu-



NSHC Mike McHugh starts work on Phase II clearing parking areas for final six campsites.

tions from MVBCH of 1,000 volunteer hours (including 250 skilled and 50 administration) and \$7,500 non-reimbursable chapter funds towards Phase II construction costs.

In the interval between the awarding of the grant and being able to use the grant funds, much preparatory work has been going on off-site.

Planning, filling out numerous forms, and dealing with other paperwork, plus lining up materials for Phase II, has occupied a great deal of time for Bill and Jan Ford and Pete Stoothoff. In addition, work has been going on to construct the equipment required for the last six campsites. Table legs have been welded by Larry Zimmerlund and Don Hecker and 10 picnic tables were built and painted in three days by Steve Campbell, Bill Ford, Cathy Upper, and Sid Stusinski. Brett Kokes has welded half of the Phase II high-line post/hitch rails and these have been transported to North Summit by DK Williams and Cathy and Bennet Upper for later use (we have yet to purchase the steel to construct the other six high line posts). Construction of the raised concrete bases for the campsite fire rings is being organized and will be underway shortly.

Apart from the campsites, a site has been pegged for the construction of one more manure bunker.

Since signing the contract and after developing an acceptable Covid-19 plan, the Forest Service permitted contractor Mike McHugh to start on-site construction work on May 26th.

Carrying On at North Summit Horse Camp

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Cathy Upper painting one of the 10 completed picnic tables for NSHC.

Work has progressed rapidly. Four pull-through and two back-in parking areas for the last six campsites have been leveled. The sub-grade work was inspected for the Forest Service on June 2nd and passed for gravel coverage. Gravel delivery started on June 4th and should be completed with gravel spread on the parking areas by the end of the second week of June.

The contract with the Forest Service specifies that the campground will be closed whenever heavy equipment is in use on the site. The initial earthmoving and gravel spreading is being done when the campground has to be closed to campers anyway, because of the pandemic. The other occasion (hopefully this year) when the campground will be closed is when the vault toilets are installed. Once pandemic closures are lifted for campground use, campers may use the six Phase I campsites. Later on, completed and inspected Phase II campsites may also be available – a total of 12 campsites. Campers will be subject to the Covid-19 regulations current at the time of their visit.

Just now it is difficult to predict how long it will take to complete the second Phase of NSHC. Work parties will be small and highly regulated as long as the pandemic persists. The water system and picnic shelter are planned for 2021. We hope to complete the Campground in October 2021.

Thank you to Methow Valley Ranger District for supporting and facilitating the construction of NSHC.

Before visiting the NSHC, please make sure that it will be open when you plan to come. The following people should be able to inform you.

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NSHC Site of pull through parking area for camp site 12 looking West.



Picnic tables for NSHC, constructed and painted over three days. Ready for transport to North Summit.



NSHC Site of pull through parking area for camp site 12 looking west after levelling and graveling.

Out On The Trails

July/August 2020

Favorite Riding Spot – Peninsula Chapter, BCHW Miller Peninsula State Park Land Blyn, Washington



Great turnout of riders to help clear trails at Miller Peninsula State Park. Our group installed the hitching rails three years ago.

By Donna Hollatz, BCHW Peninsula Chapter

ne of the favorite trail systems for members of BCHW Peninsula Chapter is Miller Peninsula off Diamond Point Road, near Blyn. This is a 2,800 acre piece of undeveloped state park land that had a few old logging roads and trails. Members and local

residents used them for years, but parking for stock trailers was not adequate. People were parking along the marginal

BCHW volunteers
work to keep trails open
for all users.

shoulder of Cat Lake Road and the turn off from the main road was in a dangerous spot.

Peninsula Chapter members began requesting a better parking area from the state in 2007, but it was not until 2014 that WSP formed an advisory group,

which compiled a Trails and Trailhead Development Plan. The Trailhead Parking Lot was developed in 2015. It has a vault toilet, picnic tables, parking for stock trailers as well as passenger vehicles, and an ADA mounting ramp for handicapped riders. Volunteers from Peninsula Chapter built the connector trails from the new Trailhead Parking Lot to the existing trails, and then built an ADA Loop Trail adjacent to the parking lot so individuals using wheelchairs or walkers can enjoy some time on a trail.

Since that time, Peninsula Chapter has maintained the trail system and installed picnic tables and hitching rails in more remote areas. Members of our chapter clear fallen trees

Favorite Riding Spot

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and brush encroaching onto the trails throughout the year. In 2018 we began installing trail signage along trails and at intersections. There are about 25 miles of trails in this parcel. These trails are used by hikers, dog walkers, and bicyclists as well as equestrians. We have corroborated on some of the trail projects with a local cycling group. It is truly a pristine forest environment for people to enjoy.

In 2019, in cooperation with the Jamestown - Klallam Tribe, volunteers built about 2 miles of new trail on Tribal land that adds a nice loop to the existing trails in the State Park System. This year, DNR has given us permission, and we have almost completed about a two-mile-long trail section across DNR property that connects to the Olympic Discovery Trail. This will connect the Miller System to the ODT. (There is not good stock trailer parking near the ODT.)

BCHW volunteers work to keep trails open for all users. We use our stock to pack in chain saws, tools, and other heavy supplies that are needed for trail maintenance and bridge construction where vehicles access is not possible.



A completed trail sign looks like this



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Out On The Trails

So That is How Those Fish Get There!

PHOTO BY JEFF MIX



Hatchery start.

On to the next lake .

Fish being acclimatized at Frying Pan Lake.

By Tom Mix

ver the course of September 14 thru the 18th we made a fish-stocking trip north of White Pass. On the 14th Del Sage and Tom Mix hauled 6 riding and pack animals from greater downtown Sequim to the White Pass stock camp on Hwy 12. We camped at the stock camp that evening. We arose early, had breakfast and got the stock all saddled and waited for my son Jeff Mix to arrive from the Tokul Creek fish hatchery. He arrived about 9 a.m. with 11 jugs containing a total of 3020 cutthroat trout. They ran about 346 to the pound. We made up the pack stock loads and tied them on and off we went. We traveled north on the PCT 2000 line and made our first stop at Dumbbell lake, Next was Snow, then Bill and finally Frying Pan lake. When we arrived at the lake, we unloaded the jugs of fish for that lake. We placed the jugs in the lake to acclimate the fish to the lake – tempera-

ture. The fish out of the stock pack were about 42 degrees and the lakes were about 53 degrees. After being acclimated to the lake we emptied the fish into the water and watched as they became accustomed to their new home. We experienced no mortality during the stocking process. That afternoon we made camp at the Goodwin Meadows Bridge that we helped build about 4 years ago. We had 2 camps of archery hunters nearby. All of the stock were in high heaven as they had about a 100 acre meadow to feed in. We heard Elk bugling all night long. That evening and all the next day it rained some and then a lot. We moved camp to Long John Lake accomplishing some trail maintenance and corridor trimming along the

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An 18 inch.



Long John Lake

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So That is How Those Fish Get There!

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way. The fishing at Long John was great and produced a nice 18-inch Cutthroat trout for dinner. Monday we were greeted with clear skies and great fall weather. We broke camp and headed back to the trailhead. When the skies were clear, we had some noise pollution from fast/low flying military attack jets as they flew about 500 feet off the ground, turned around Tumac Mountain and swooped down through the Bumping River valley. Over the course of the outing we met about 30 PCT through hikers, about the same number of archery hunters, rode past 8 archery camps, and contended with about 12 ground bee nests, which made our stock swish their tails a lot. The entire over 28 miles of 9 different trails we traveled were in great to fair shape with the PCT being the best maintained. Once we stepped off the PCT we had the whole area to ourselves. The fall colors were in their best form. The meadows were golden; the huckleberry bushes were bright red, green and maroon. Elk - we saw their tracks, heard and saw them all over the place. We make this trip every 2 years. So - get your rides ready for 2020. And - folks think all we do in BCHW is trail riding and trail maintenance.



Del Sage enjoying a ride.

NEW_RATES!

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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: bchw@wamedia.com.

Tahoma Chapter Prize Ride

Saturday, September 12, 2020 Riders Out: 8:00 am to Noon Danville Georgetown King Co. Parks Trails 25258 Landsburg Rd SE Ravensdale, WA 98051 \$20 - Hot Lunch & 4 Tickets Silent Auction Prize Winner Announcements: 3 pm Contact Ranae Stevens ranae52@comcast.net www.tahomabchw.org

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, September 19, 2020 Kittitas Valley Event Center 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick 360-640-1495 • bchwexec@bchw.org

Traildusters Halloween Prize Ride

Saturday, October 10, 2020 Contact: Cindy Kinney cindykinney05@yahoo.com

19th Annual Winery Ride

Saturday, October 31, 2020 – Zillah for more information email: bchwwinerywineryride@gmail.com

4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2020 Kittitas Valley Event Center 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick 360-640-1495 • bchwexec@bchw.org

Content Deadline for the September/October 2020 Newsletter is August 1st

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.