

The Trailhead News

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington

July/August 2022



www.bchw.org



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Cover Photo: Photos is of Peninsula Chapter member Teresa Crossley riding her spotted draft cross along the Dungeness River on the Dungeness Trails near Sequim, WA. Photo taken by Linda Morin.

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June 1	July/Aug
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October 1	Nov/Dec

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

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

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

Doc Wesselius

BettyRae Shonka

Trygve Culp

Jim Murphy

Teunis Wyers

Marianne Finrow

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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 sttrk21@msn.com.

Prez Says



National Trails Day

By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

June is upon us and our weather is not cooperating very well. Events have had to be canceled or postponed, which is unfortunate. However, several chapters did get out and work on their trails for National Trails Day on June 4th! Thank you to all who participated; your work is appreciated by all user groups.

The Hotshot Crews have been working hard in the back country, clearing miles of trails. Thank you to Jason Ridlon, Past President, and his Hotshot teams for all their hard work on the Wolf Creek Trail out of Winthrop, taking out the downed trees so that a group from the Youth Corp can get in there and do tread work. Snow levels permitting, they will be doing the same thing down in the Umatilla. After that, there is talk of some work on Bonapart Mt. I know how much their hard work is appreciated!

Now we are dealing with three major issues that affect horse owners. First, we have the Animal Waste legislation,

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Wolf Creek Trail Methow Ranger District

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.

Your Leadership Quote of the Month

“

*People forget how fast
you did the job – but
remember how well you
did it!*

~ Unknown Author



Strength in Membership

By Ken Carmichael, Ponderosa Chapter Director

Part of having a successful chapter is having active members that put skin in the game. Sometimes it isn't easy to think of where a person will fit in, especially on the spur of the moment. Fortunately, BCH needs people of all skills, talents, interests and abilities, so there is a place for everyone. We want people to not only contribute but also feel that they are adding to the success of BCH.

Years ago, the first time I was president of a chapter, I wrote position descriptions for every conceivable position in the chapter. There were several reasons for this, but it primarily gave me a reference when I talked to people about how they could be involved, and it gave them a clear understanding of what they were volunteering to do.

Quick story. When Forming the Ponderosa chapter, I asked Cindy and Gary what they wanted to do in the chapter. Cindy helps with the Facebook and newsletter. Gary was a little harder to place. Cindy said that Gary was a good photographer and had a new camera. I did not have a photographer on the list. So, we added that position. It has been invaluable having Gary there to document our activities. We put a round peg in a round hole.

All the position descriptions that I have written are on the BCHW website in the secure area under Member Information/ Resource Library/ Chapter Guidelines/Chapter Volunteer Opportunities Summary and Detail. The summary provides one sentence about the position. The detailed position provides a more in-depth description. They are offered as a starting point where each chapter can adjust to your specific needs and resources.

I am a firm believer that those of us who have the opportunity to participate in BCH at any level have more fun and get more out of our membership. All members should have the opportunity to have as much fun. If a person holds a position, it gives them a reason to participate and feel part of the group.

I started as chapter librarian and moved through many responsibilities, just as many others have done. If you have read this article and are not holding a position, or want to change volunteer opportunities, ask your chapter president about opportunities in your chapter and have him/her share the lists. We also need people at the BCHW and BCHA level. There are six officers and about 17 committee chairs. Ask about these too.

We need, want and appreciate people of all skills, talents, interests and abilities to keep trails open. 🐾

Prez Says

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which will affect those who own property and keep livestock. Second, we have the E-Bike legislation that affects our trail systems; third, we have Non-Equine campers in Equine camps. I ask that all who read this message educate yourselves and get involved in the process. Voice your opinions!! The horse camp issue and the E-Bikes are two of the major items not just in Washington but across the United States. BCHA is also advocating for the horses!!

Our Sawyer Certification program has also been busy, certifying many Sawyers that will do the hard work of clearing the big trees off our states trails. They are now ready to get to work!!

As we get closer to summer and the trails finally start to dry up and we can ride, when you run into bikers and hikers out on the trail, say Hi! Have a conversation with them. That goes a long way to good relations. We need to get along on the trails, so we can ALL enjoy our Public Lands. 🐾



Hikers and Horsemen Team Up to Open Popular Trail and Horse Camp



"Toothpick" Paul Hornberger and Bernt Ericson – Washington Trail Association (WTA).



Rebecca Wanagel – WTA and Peninsula chapter crew leader.

By Bob Hoyle, Director/Work Projects Coordinator
Buckhorn Range Chapter -BCHW (And long-time WTA member)

The drive south on US Highway 101 along the Hood Canal forewarned of what lay ahead. For 50 miles, there were downed powerlines and poles, trees and massive amounts of debris piled along the sides of the road. The date was Saturday, February 26th and Buckhorn Range Chapter President Kris Lenke and I were on our way to a field trip to the High Steel Bridge and Vance Creek Bridge, organized by Lori Lennox of Grays Harbor Chapter. We saw the aftermath of a heavy wet snowstorm that hammered the east side of the Olympic Peninsula on Christmas Day. Highway 101 was closed from Highway 104 to Hoodspport, and power was knocked out for six days.

After visiting the bridges, Traci Koch of Oakland Bay Chapter suggested we see if we could get to LeBar Horse Camp as planned, about 10 miles further up FS Road 23. After going less than a mile, the road became a tunnel through the downed trees carved out by the firewood permit holders who had been working the road. With barely enough room to squeeze through, three SUVs and a pickup truck slowly picked our way through and over the logs, snow and debris, finally making it to the bridges over the Skokomish River and LeBar Creek and the Lower S. Fork Skokomish R. Trailhead. The firewood cutters had gone no further, and our journey ended half a mile from LeBar Horse Camp. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/GtC3fSSVJt4X1fJ38>

Seeing all this devastation, Lori suggested the idea of a regional sawyer recertification/work party to try to clear the road in advance of what was obviously going to be a very busy season of logging out trails. I sent an email the next day to Jai Lust, Wilderness and Trails Coordinator of Olympic National Forest and

Rebecca Wanagel, long-time WTA (WA Trails Association) Crew Leader and newly appointed Trail Crew leader of Peninsula Chapter – BCHW. Rebecca took the reins in her teeth and organized a crew of WTA sawyers who, along with Kris Lenke and me, headed up to tackle the mess on Saturday, March 26th. We discovered a contractor already working on the road (Yay!) and proceeded to clear the trail. We worked to open the LeBar access trail, the 120 access trail, and the Lower S. Fork Skok trail #873 to the top of the switchbacks. In the meantime, Rebecca recertified me as a B-level sawyer. A WTA crosscut crew had already opened the main trail from the lower Trailhead the week before. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xAxpXUbNBxRHLphG9>

On April 26th, Rebecca, Jai and I made a scouting trip to the area in advance of the BCHW Regional work party (WP) scheduled for May 20-22nd at LeBar Horse Camp, and we estimated that there were hundreds of trees down on the 140 spur trail (1.4 miles) alone. (I made another scouting trip upriver on May 7th to Camp Comfort and the 100 spur trail, where I encountered even more devastation (200+ trees/mile)). Based on what we saw, Rebecca scheduled another WTA/BCHW joint WP for May 14/15th. They cleared the 140 trail and 2/3 of the 100 trail that weekend in torrential rain. Members of the Mountaineers also joined in to provide swamping.

The Regional BCHW work party began Friday, May 20th, to clean up LeBar Horse Camp and finish logging out the Skok trail as far as the 100. Rebecca ran the sawyer crews made up of WTA

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Hikers and Horsemen Team Up to Open Popular Trail and Horse Camp

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sawyers Martin Knowles, Tom Griffith, Tien Vo, Bernt Ericson, and Paul Hornberger. Peninsula Chapter sawyers Jim Hollatz and Rick King, with Suzanne King and Kris Lenke swamping. Harold Weise of Olympic Chapter provided pack support for the sawyer crews while Larry Sammons of Buckhorn and I demolished and removed the old rotting roof from the vault toilet in camp in preparation for the new roof.

On Saturday, the trail work continued, with sawyers Traci and Wayne Koch from Oakland Bay Chapter joining the party. Larry and I worked on extending the highline poles to raise them higher in sites three and eight while Peninsula Chapter members Theresa Percy, Stephanie Burns and friend Dean joined Kris, who worked all day to clean up campsites. Peninsula members Linda Morin and Judy Sarles helped Dutch Oven Queen (and Buckhorn Secretary) Kim Merrick make and serve everyone a delicious dinner!

On Sunday, the mighty sawyers completed the last difficult mile of trail, which opened about six miles of the main trail and three miles of spur trails, making three possible loops of riding using FS road 2353 to return.

Another work party has been scheduled by Rebecca to continue logging out the trail upriver to the ford at Church Creek and beyond, eventually opening the entire 12.5-mile trail to the upper Trailhead parking lot and the Upper Skok trail. Other WTA crew leaders have several trips planned to get this trail back up to snuff. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/9KvYYDhDHsYtbCxV6>

I want to thank everyone who pulled together and worked hard to accomplish all that we did over the last two plus months and apologize to anyone I may have left out. The collaboration between Backcountry Horsemen, WTA and the Mountaineers was

truly inspiring. I especially want to acknowledge Rebecca for being an extraordinary human being who has more energy and enthusiasm for trails than anyone I have met and was instrumental in pulling this collaboration together.

In her own words, "I cannot begin to describe how many trees we have cut out. The efforts put forth by everyone involved have been inspiring. The teamwork between agencies is heartwarming, and the stock support we had this past weekend from Harold Weise (Olympic chapter) was a lifesaver. Special thanks to Magic, Archie and Frank, the four-footed volunteers. It was lots of talented, generous, hard-working, tough, trail-loving people from multiple agencies and chapters. This was a herculean effort by so many who were involved. The blowdowns were in the many, many, many hundreds. A final but important

note: all these hundreds of trees have been cut with full attention to safety and not one mishap or incident. We are proud of our safety record and the communication we maintained between crews using radios."

LeBar Horse Camp is now open to the public, and the trails are open for riding. Please consider making this beautiful camp and trail one of your riding destinations soon! 🐾

I want to thank everyone
who pulled together
and worked so hard to
accomplish all that we did
over the last 2+ months.



Harold Weise, Olympic chapter on Magic with Archie and Frank (mules).



Martin Knowles – WTA, Larry Sammons – Buckhorn Range chapter and Kim Merrick – Buckhorn Range chapter.

Packwood Work Party



By Tony Karniss, Lewis County Chapter BCHW, Trail Crew Leader/ Saw Program

On June 3-5, Lewis County Chapter had a great work party at Packwood Lake on the 78 and 81 trails. We lucked out on Friday and Saturday with no rain and it was warm and muggy. Then Saturday evening, it started to pour.

On Friday, Gary and Norma rode to the south end of the lake and on up towards Beaver Bill Creek to get the big rock off the trail and repair trail tread, then rode on 81 trail cutting out logs to Beaver Bill Creek and stopped where the creek was running too hard to cross.

Tom Conner, Don and Marsha O'Neal, and Cindy Chennier, started working on the East End of the Main bridge, repairing the water wash against the bridge bulkhead. Once done, they made a plan to repair the next hole in the trail.

Meanwhile, Leonard and Sherri Wright, Cassie Mitchell and I went up to start digging out the mud and roots for the 30-foot turnpike, installing the culvert pipe and getting our side logs cut and ready. Slim was packing in the tools and lunches and other supplies as needed. Then later that afternoon, the bridge crew came

up and helped install the side rails. Joe Chenier stayed at camp and had a warm fire for us when we returned. Thanks, Joe!

Then on Saturday morning, Gary and Norma headed up the 78 trail hoping to make it to Mosquito Lake, removing some 24-inch logs off the trail and locating some cedar for the Puncheon repair up there. They came up just short due to the 16 inches of snow on the trail!

Tom, Marsha and Don finished the bridge approach with some gravel and began their repair of the big hole in the trail. The project ended up turning out nice.

Meanwhile, Sherri and Leonard Cassie and Lee Mitchell, Ann Lindh, Mackenzie Lindh, Sherri Brown, Erick Brown and myself headed to the turnpike to start moving dirt for fill and Slim packed in more supplies and packed cedar planks down to Tom's crew. When they finished up, they came up and helped with the finishing touches of the turnpike.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and support, a great crew and great meals. Thank You, Everyone! 🍀



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

Two-Mile Bridge on Olympic Adventure Route

April 29 – May 5, 2022

PHOTOS BY GORDON TAYLOR



Using cables, pulleys, and Gripjoists, the stringer pieces are moved toward the bridge site using BCHW expertise.



Using cables, pulleys, and Gripjoists, the stringer pieces are moved into place onto rock-filled gabion-basket foundation.

By Donna Hollatz, Peninsula Chapter

The Olympic Adventure Route is a 26-mile long, mostly single-track, natural surface trail from just west of the Elwha River along Hwy 112 to the Crescent Lake Spruce Railroad Trail, over DNR lands. It is a full-up multi-user trail for hikers, mountain bike riders, and equestrians. Early this spring, it was discovered that a log bridge at the two-mile marker along the OAT Trail had become dangerously rotted. Justin Zarzeczny (DNR), Steve Gray (County Transporta-

tion Planner), Tanner Boggs (Clallam County), and Tom Mix (BCHW engineer) set about designing a replacement bridge suitable for hikers, bicyclists, and stock and making plans to get the failing structure rebuilt. The speed with which this project was designed, permitted, and built is a testament to the cooperative environment between agencies and BCHW in our region.

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BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expired on December 31, 2021. Please go to [BCHW.org](https://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 MEMBERSHIPS In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$41.00
Family	\$54.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

Two-Mile Bridge on Olympic Adventure Route April 29-May 5, 2022

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Stringers for the new bridge are in place and ready for decking.



PHOTOS BY GORDON TAYLOR

Attaching bull rail: Tom Mix using drill; Jim Hollatz holding rail in position. Other workers' names unknown.

During the week of April 29th through May 5th, a crew of about 40 different workers put brains and brawn together to get the job done. Volunteers came from Peninsula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, Peninsula Trails Coalition, and the County Chain Gang, with only 10 or 12 people working each day, depending on the work to be done. The Chain Gang worked 1.5 days and moved seven yards of dirt. They appreciated being able to do something they considered constructive in the great outdoors.

A perfect-size log was found about 60 yards away. It was then peeled, slid into place using Griphoists, cables, and pulleys, bucked to the proper length (2 pieces), and lifted over the creek bed by a BCHW rigging crew. While that process

was taking place, other volunteers removed the old bridge, dug out and leveled the abutment ends, and placed gabion baskets filled with rock as a foundation for the new stringers. All the tools, gravel, and large rock were moved down the trail about 2/3 mile from the trailhead (near Karpen Road) to the job site with four powered, tracked totes.

Some of the planks from the old bridge were sound and were able to be re-used on the new bridge. A bull rail was installed down each side for safety, and the approaches to the bridge were rebuilt. This project was an amazing work of coordination between several groups and resulted in a beautiful new bridge! 🌲

amazon**smile**



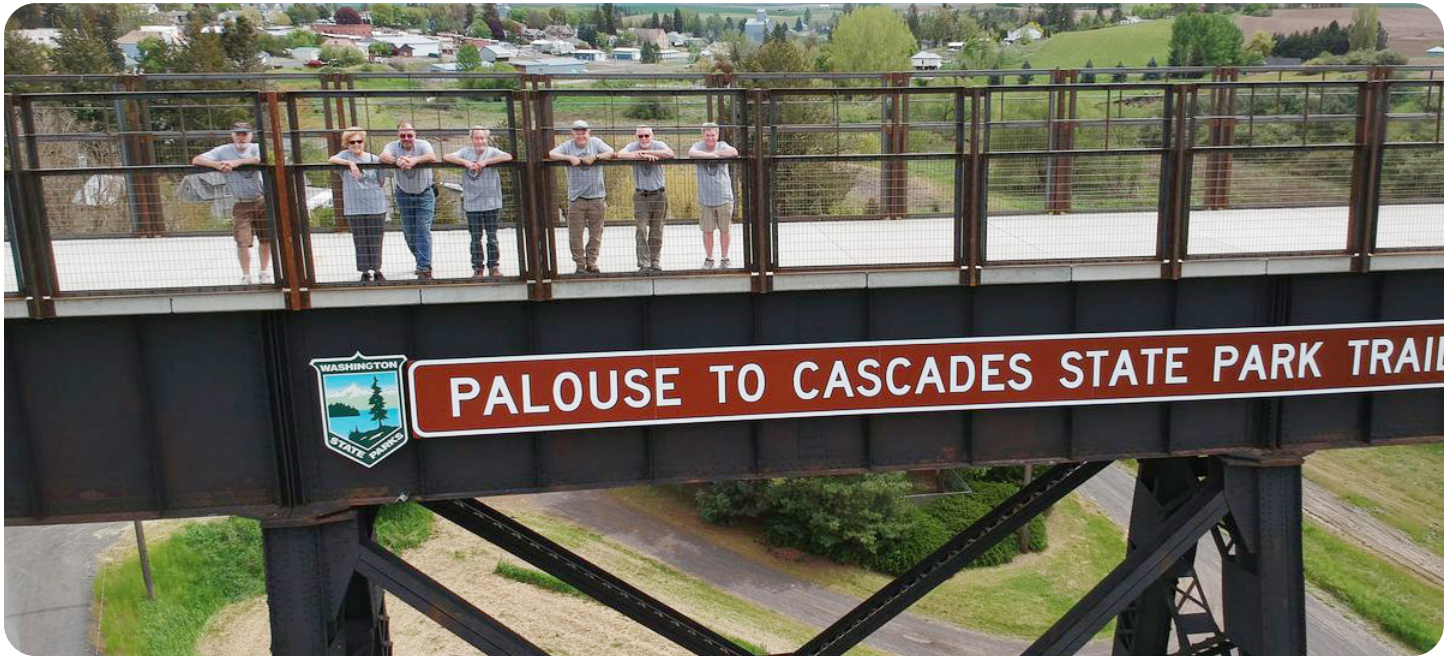
You shop. Amazon gives.

Be sure to shop at Amazon Smile with Back Country Horsemen of Washington as your charity of choice!

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



The Tekoa Trestle is Now Open to the Public



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

The Tekoa Trestle has been an icon of the town of Tekoa since it was constructed in 1909 by the Milwaukee Railroad Co. Now, after years of advocacy from locals and trail riders alike, the 975-foot bridge is open to the public, and the little town of Tekoa hopes it becomes an economic driver for the rural community.

Tekoa has served as the anchor of the Palouse to Cascades Trail for quite some time. The Milwaukee Railroad Co. went bankrupt in the late 1970s, and the state took ownership of the thoroughway shortly after, creating the cross-state trail. The trail runs right up to the trestle, but its dilapidated state forced through-travelers to take a 3.2-mile detour to continue to the Idaho border. That detour took trail users right past Monte Morgan's property, a founding member of the Friends of the Tekoa Trestle.

The Tekoa Trail and Trestle Association rebranded as the Friends of the Tekoa Trestle (FTT). Their mission was to secure the funding necessary to convert the rail line to a signature feature of Tekoa.

To get legislators and state park officials to commit to the trestle's makeover, FTT made their presence known from Tekoa to Olympia. In 2015, members traversed the trail from east to west to get a better idea of the work that was needed on the trail. They also made a few trips to the state capitol, speaking at different hearings and passing out trestle-shaped cookies with "TEKOA" stamped across them.

Of course, FTT had friends of their own to help drum up support. The Chairperson of the Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition, Fred Wert, helped found the group in 2016 as state legislators were considering a plan to give adjacent landowners control over most of the eastern section.

The coalition is an advocacy group that works closely with Washington State Parks and Recreation to secure funding in the Legislature while working with small communities by helping with improvements, fundraising and upkeep on property not owned by the state.

Those in favor of the plan argued that the necessary repairs to that section were too costly and worried higher traffic would result in damage to the properties the trail intersects. They did not think the 130-mile section of trail was used enough to justify funding repairs and said transferring stewardship over to adjacent properties would ensure noxious weed control and preventive wildfire measures. There were fencing issues, trespassing and weed spraying on that right-of-way that were not addressed and, at the time, stopped any hope of securing funding for the trestle dead in its tracks.

However, a typo rendered it null and void, and it never took effect. This proposal by the Legislature was not well-publicized, and many trail supporters were unaware of its passage. Proponents of the transfer tried to get it re-written, but supporters of the trail were now aware of those efforts and became vocal in their opposition. BCHW spoke in favor of trail access at public meetings while acknowledging the unfair impact on neighboring landowners. Ultimately, Washington State Parks recognized their responsibilities and worked to improve trail conditions.

Additional trail work is needed. Earlier this year, State Parks wrapped up renovations on a long-neglected but important section of the cross-state trail, the Beverly Bridge. The project cost

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WE'RE So EXCITED and WE JUST CAN'T HIDE IT!

The Winery Ride Committee is looking forward to a great 2022 Winery Ride.

The 2021 BCHW Winery Ride was amazing, and we broke a record for the number of campers and riders and BCHW Store merchandise sales. This year we have some exciting new changes based on feedback from our participant survey.

- We eliminated over 80 camping sites on the steepest part of the base camp property and increased the size of each site to 30'x70'. These will be \$20/night.
- We have another site 1.5 miles away from the main camp and one mile by trail, where we will have premium sites that are about 40'x100' for those ginormous rigs. These will be \$30/night. The sites are flat and have no sprinkler heads to go around.
- BCHW got out of the food business and instead will have independent caterers on site. This means participants don't have to pay and reserve a meal and should keep the costs down.

- Paradisos Del Sol Winery is back on board, and we have picked up a new brewery on one of the loops.

This event can't happen without the BCHW volunteers from all over Washington state. From parking patrol, registration, pooper scoopers, trail safety and winery hosts, volunteers make this event the highlight of Zillah's winery business. We depend on your willingness to come out and ensure that our customer's experience is the best it can be at this unique event.

Please consider signing up to volunteer at <https://form.jotform.com/221005270141133>. Volunteers get to camp free and are fed! Chapters, please consider donating prizes or making a monetary contribution to help pay for prizes and expenses to help put on this event. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Thomas, BCHW winery chair, at bchwwineryride@gmail.com.

Thank you, the 2022 Winery Ride Committee

The Tekoa Trestle is Now Open to the Public

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\$5.6 million, and repaired the bridge spanning the Columbia River, finally connecting the eastern and western sections.

Both Beverly Bridge and the Tekoa Trestle are wonderful upgrades to the trail. A new trailhead in Malden will be the first official trailhead on the eastern portion of the trail, and the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

In 2019, the Tekoa Trestle finally received funding for a new deck and safety fencing. The funding was included in the capital budget, including two Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program grants. Anderson said the final renovation costs amounted to a little more than \$1 million.

Trail advocates believe cyclists, through-hikers and equestrians worldwide will flock to Washington to enjoy the through-state trail and the accompanying Tekoa Trestle.

Those coming to the Pacific Northwest to enjoy the trail will follow in the footsteps and wagon ruts of the John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association. Every spring, equestrians, carts and cyclists from around the region travel west to east for 18 days on the Palouse to Cascades Trail.

The John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association has long supported efforts across the state to improve the beloved trail. The group is in the middle of their 41st trek and are expected to arrive in Tekoa just in time for the dedication of the trestle.

Please Click Form to Download a Printable PDF

MEDICAL EMERGENCY INFORMATION for RIDERS

To be carried when riding

NAME & DOB: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME & PHONE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE: _____

ANY SERIOUS ILLNESSES OR CONCERNS (circle): diabetes, bee allergies, heart disease, seizures, asthma, and/or: _____

DO YOU HAVE (circle): pacemaker, hearing aids, contacts _____

LAST TETANUS IMMUNIZATION: _____

ALLERGIES TO MEDICINES (list) _____

BLOOD TYPE IF KNOWN: _____

PRIMARY PHYSICIAN & PHONE: _____

HEALTH INSURANCE INFO:

Carrier: _____

Group #: _____

ID #: _____

EMERGENCY VETERINARIAN: (circle) closest available, vet on call, or home veterinarian only

HOME VETERINARIAN & PHONE: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACTS & PHONE #'s FOR WHO HAS AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON TREATMENT OF YOUR ANIMAL(S): _____

EQUINE INSURANCE INFO, IF ANY: _____

Courtesy of BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
www.bchw.org



Roy's Picnic Table

By Tony Mocer, Freelance Writer

On a late winter day in March, Mother Nature teased an early spring offering: A beautiful day that reminds all of us from the Pacific Northwest why we live here. My good friend Casey Diggs and I had unfinished business with a trail we had hiked last summer. Known by locals as the Thousand Puddles trail, the area, which is a Whatcom Land Trust Conservation site located at the end of Saxon Road, is labeled as the Edfro Creek Trail. Both names are fitting.

The trail parallels the South Fork of the Nooksack River and, being flat, is a nice scenic walk offering access to a protected forest and views of eagles soaring over the river. On our summer hike with my daughter in tow, we made it to the end of the marked trail and turned back even though the trail continued. On the way out, we bumped into a couple on horseback who looked as though they were going much farther than we had. Chatting about where they were going, they told us that a little way past the end of the trail was Roy's picnic table. And so I knew finding the table was an adventure for the future.

The couple on horseback had described the table's location as just up a logging road, as though we would have stumbled upon it minutes from where we had ended our hike. So, on this winter day, Diggs and I planned for a little hike, some wet feet and a sunny picnic at a table in the woods.

Casey Diggs crossing Cavanaugh Creek. Tony Mocer photo

We crossed multiple creeks bursting with water from recent rain and winter snowmelt. Some of these creeks were a simple hop, and others required some well-placed logs. As we made our way past the end what is marked as the Edfro Creek Trail, we expected to make a couple of turns and be at our lunch spot. We were wrong. We walked on an easy but wet path until we bumped into what was a raging Cavanaugh Creek. We could see that the trail continued on the other side of the creek, but there was no hopping or wading across this creek. The force was incredible, and we were sure we would be swept away if we entered the water. Determined to find Roy's table, we walked up the creek in search of potential crossing points. What we found were some logs that were nearly touching and an old cable bridge that had been reduced to cables with the occasional rotting board attached to them.

Slightly nervous about being swept away by the creek, we opted for the log crossing. Balancing on the slick logs with our feet inches from the rushing water provided an adrenaline spike as we made our way to the other side. At this point, we had no

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NEW RATES!

Donate Money to BCHW by Buying an Ad in The Trailhead News

BCHW The Trailhead News Ad Insertion Rates (Design Extra Cost) Email Ads to: bchw@wamedia.com

Ad Deadline Dates and Payment Due	Publish Date of Newsletter	Ad Size	Ad Dimensions	Ad Cost 1x Insertion
(or first business day after this date)				
December 1	Jan/Feb	Back Cover 3/4 page	8" H x 8" W	\$331.00
January 18	Mar/April	Inside Front Cover	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
April 1	May/June	Inside Back Cover	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
June 1	July/Aug	Full Page	10" H x 7 1/2" W	\$496.00
August 1	Sept/Oct	3/4 Page	6 1/4" H x 7 1/2" W	\$331.00
October 1	Nov/Dec	Half Page (Horizontal)	4 3/4" H x 7 1/2" W	\$248.00
<i>Ads must meet professional publishing standards. Ads must be high resolution (300 dpi) PDFs or JPGs. Modifications are billable for design at \$80.00 per hour, \$40.00 minimum charge, billed to the advertiser. All ads subject to approval by BCHW.</i>		Half Page (Vertical)	10" H x 3 5/8" W	\$248.00
		Third Page	3 1/2" H x 7 1/2" W	\$166.00
		Quarter Page	4 3/4" H x 3 5/8" W	\$124.00
		Business Card	2" H x 3 5/8" W	\$62.00

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Roy's Picnic Tables

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idea where we were going. Diggs doubted whether we were still heading toward the elusive table, but after a scramble up a hill and a little bushwhacking, we were once again on a nice path along the river.

The trail eventually took a left turn uphill and became as much creek as it was dirt trail as water meandered its way down the hillside. Now gaining elevation quickly and with no table in sight, we questioned whether we had understood the couple on horseback correctly. Just as we were beginning to think we may need to find a log to have lunch on, we saw a lone wooden sign that said "Roy's Picnic Table" with an arrow. Reinvigorated, we pushed up the hill spotting a few more signs as we went. Hiking around one more bend, the trees opened up, and there it was, the table and a view of the foothills as far as we could see.

Carved into the picnic table was "Whatcom BCH." Having heard of the Whatcom Back Country Horsemen (WBCH), I knew when I got back; that I would need to do some digging into how the heck this table got here.



Roy Van Diest. Photo courtesy Whatcom Back Country Horseman

I found Rocky Leavitt, who, with the help of his mules, has been maintaining trails all over Whatcom County where vehicles can't get to for years. A long-time member of WBCH, he has volunteered countless hours to uphold its mission of keeping trails open. As it would turn out, the table Diggs and I ate at was the second Roy's picnic table, and Leavitt himself had brought it up there. He said he would be happy to chat with me about the table, but it would probably be better if I spoke with Roy himself.

Thrilled to learn the whole story, I sat down with Leavitt and Roy Van Diest to hear their tales. Now in his 80s, Van Diest has spent a lifetime adventuring around Whatcom County and beyond by horseback. It was on one of these adventures that Van Diest stumbled across this viewpoint and declared, "This is a nice place to have a picnic."

Roy would return, riding his horse, Lucy, with materials to assemble a picnic table. Now a destination for the approximately 150 WBCH members and the random hiker, the table is a symbol of all those adventures on horseback Van Diest experienced and a reminder of all the volunteer hours WBCH members have put in to maintain trails used by all. This group does this low-impact maintenance not for pay, as it actually costs them to serve this role, but for the love of the outdoors.

As I finished my peanut butter and jelly sandwich and Diggs polished off his delicious-looking chicken on a bed of greens, we rose from Roy's table, snapped some pictures, and began our descent. We once again safely crossed Cavanaugh Creek and the thousand or so puddles en route to our vehicle. Besides the soggy feet, we felt great that we had completed such an exciting adventure and enjoyed a meal at Roy's picnic table. We were also appreciative of all the pieces that came together to make our adventure possible. It took efforts by a random couple on horseback, The Whatcom Land Trust, Rocky Leavitt and the WBCH, to make this day possible for us. Most importantly, it took Van Diest and his decades of blazing trails by horseback to discover such a beautiful spot to have a picnic. 🌿

~ Reprinted with permission from
Mount Baker Experience Magazine

Content Deadline for the September/October 2022 Printed Newsletter is August 1, 2022

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

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

ATTENTION!

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.

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.

Purple Sage Riders' Abels Ridge Camp & Ride

Friday-Sunday, July 22-24, 2022

Pomeroy, WA

Gary Westergard 509-572-7462

2022 Ferry County Steak Ride

Friday-Sunday, July 29-31, 2022

Colville National Forest In Ferry County
Ride Starts from the Jungle Hill Trailhead
off the Albion Hill Road

Potluck dinner July 29

No Children Under Age of 10 on trail ride

\$25.00 Per Person

Children Ages 11-12 \$15

Silent auction open Friday-Saturday,

Live auction starts at 6:30 pm

Saturday, July 30

Doris Bacon 509-775-3544

repvet86@gmail.com

Purple Sage Riders' Humptulips Camp & Ride

Thursday-Sunday, August 18-21, 2022

Heather Moorman 509-947-7792

Pierce County BCHW Annual Prize Ride

Saturday, July 16, 2022

Elbe State Forest

Sahara Creek DNR Horse Camp

Bob robett57@outlook.com

Cascade Horse Club BCHW

Breakfast Ride

Saturday, July 23, 2022

Breakfast served 8-10 am

Pilchuck Tree Farm Arlington, WA

Registration on Site

Breakfast cost \$12.00 adults \$7.00 children,
includes \$2.00 trail fee to PRA

Barbara 425-791-4003

dunerydr2@aol.com

Ray 425-238-5422, Ray8131@gmail.com

Peninsula Chapter Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Layton Hill Horse Camp, Sequim, WA

First Ride Out - 9:30, Last Out 11:00

Register by Date - Limited to 100 riders

No pass needed

Cost: Members & Non-Members -

\$30 includes 4 tickets

Camping is Available - Fri \$20, Sat \$30

Lunch is Available -

\$8 donation to WAHSET

Kim Merrick 253-261-6188

eloise55@gmail.com

www.pbchwh.org/index.php

Tahoma Chapter BCHW 32nd Annual Prize Ride

Saturday, September 10, 2022

25258 Landsburg Rd SE, Ravensdale,

WA 98051 Exit: alternate entrance

12 pm: 25025 SE 248th St

Ravensdale, WA 98051

Gates open: 7:30 AM

Gates closed/locked: 12:30 pm

First Ride Out: 8:00 am - 12:00

Lunch: Noon to 3:30 pm

Prizes! Gift Certificates! Silent Auction

50/50 cash drawing, Dogs must be on

leash in prize ride area. No stallions No

smoking No alcohol

Cost: \$20 includes delicious hot lunch

and 4 raffle tickets,

\$5 each additional tickets

www.tahomabchwh.org

Paradise Loop Ride

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Ready to ride @ TBD

Jim & Janesse Murbach 509-840-2345.

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 17, 2022

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

president@bchw.org • 509-699-9927

Richland Horse Park Fundraiser

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Mary & Bill Bennett 479-886-3950

Rattlesnake Slope Ride. Ready to ride

Saturday, October 15, 2022

11:00 am

Gary Westergard 509-572-7452

21st Anniversary Winery Ride

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Go to BCHW.org or

BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Richland Horse Park Work Party,

October TBD

1:00-4:00, RHP

Bill & Mary Bennett 479-886-3950

4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, December 3, 2022

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

president@bchw.org • 509-699-9927

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 bchw@wamedia.com.

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. 25 — National Public Lands Day

Oct. 10 — World Mental Health Day

Nov. 11 — Veterans Day

Nov. 25 — Native American
Heritage Day