The Trailhead News

Vol. 45 Issue 3

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

May/June 2020

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

www.bchw.org

OFFICERS:

President Jason Ridlon
president@bchw.org..... 509.699.9927

Vice President Rob Deboer
vice_pres@bchw.org 360.770.5082

Secretary Tina Short
secretary@bchw.org..... 509.306.8996

Treasurer Teri Starke
treasurer@bchw.org..... 253.709.5052

BCHA Director - Pos 1 - Bill McKenna
bcha_dir1@bchw.org..... 360.599.2526

BCHA Director - Pos 2 - Jason Ridlon
bcha_dir2@bchw.org..... 509.699.9927

Alternate Doug Stewart
dougstewart55@gmail.com..... 206.551.7824

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Awards Mary Jo Krutakk
Mjkrutak@outlook.com 425.301.2907

Education Kim Merrick
eloise55@gmail.com..... 253.261.6188

Governance & By-Laws Ken Carmichael
gov_and_bylaws@bchw.org..... 509.466.2225

Grant Administration Darrell Wallace
bcha_dir1@bchw.org..... 360.918.3016

Historian Vacant

Leave No Trace Education Jane Byram
LNT@bchw.org..... 509.997.7407

Legislative Jeff Chapman
bbbranch@olympus.net..... 360.385.6364

Membership Dana Chambers
membership@bchw.org..... 206.498.6952

Membership Development Ken Carmichael
kcarmichael2225@gmail.com ... 509.466.2225

Photography Jim Thode
webboss@bchw.org..... 360.978.5336

Public Lands Kathy Young
public_lands@bchw.org 206.551.7824

Safety Chuck Regimbal
safetychair@bchw.org 360.871.5295

Saw Program Tom Mix
backcountrypacker.mix@gmail.com 360.582.0460
Tony Karniss
tkarniss@gmail.com.....360.748.8640

Stores Lori Lennox
llennox82@gmail.com 360.482.2742

Special Projects Coordinator Jason Ridlon
jhridlon@fairpoint.net 509.699.9927

Volunteer Copy Editor/Proof Reader Sondra Johnston
sgjohn1234@aol.com..... 253.843.2679

THN Editor Dick Yarboro
ridgerider001@gmail.com 360.481.2132

Volunteer Hours Chair: Deb Wesselius
volunteerhours@bchw.org..... 360.736.6106

Webmaster Scott Lee
webboss@bchw.org..... 360.481.3066

STAFF:

Executive Director Nicole Sedgwick
bchwexec@bchw.org..... 360.640.1495

Lobbyist Joyce Willms
joyce@wamedia.com..... 360.754.4543

THN Managing Editor/Publisher, Creative Dir.
Adriane Goodwin
bchw@wamedia.com..... 360.754.4543

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Cover Photo: 2020 BCHW Legislative Day with BCHW President, Jason Ridlon, U.S. Congressman Derek Kilmer, and three Junior BCHW Members. Photo by Jim Thode.

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April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

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BCHW Chapter Locations & Directors

BUCKHORN RANGE: Director: Jeff Chapman	P.O. Box 845 • Chimacum, WA 98325	360-385-6364	bbbranch@olympus.net
CAPITOL RIDERS: Director: April Bryan	10214 Gate Rd SW • Olympia WA 98512	360-459-8261	timbryan1205@gmail.com
CASCADE HORSE CLUB: Director: Scott Lee	P.O. Box 1359 • Lake Stevens WA 98258	360-481-3066	scottlee@fairpoint.net
CRAB CREEK RIDERS: Director: Jim Craghead	P.O. Box 519 • Moses Lake, WA 98837	509-707-3151	masterhunter@sosmail.us
FERRY COUNTY: Director: George Young	P.O. Box 1124 • Republic, WA 99166	509-429-4288	rockyridge@rcabletv.com
GRAYS HARBOR: Director: Lori Lennox	P.O. Box 52 • Satsop, WA 98583	360-482-2742	llennox82@gmail.com
INDEPENDENTS Director: Tom Janes	P.O. Box 38 • Ellensburg, WA 98926	509-306-3575	bchwindependentdirector@outlook.com
INLAND EMPIRE: Director: Jon Irwin	P.O. Box 14371 • Spokane Valley, WA 99214	509-230-3263	michellejonirwin@msn.com
ISLAND: Director: Sally Garratt	420 Stillmeadow Rd • Coupeville, WA 98239	206-914-1482	sallygarratt@gmail.com
LEWIS COUNTY: Director: Jim Thode	1673 S Market Blvd #88 • Chehalis, WA 98532	360-978-5336	jim@jimthode.net
METHOW VALLEY: Director: DK Williams	P.O. Box 902 • Twisp, WA 98856	360-676-1319	dkwilliams49@gmail.com
MOUNT ADAMS: Director: Terri Crawford	P.O. Box 1835 • White Salmon, WA 98672	509-773-3413	mountadamsbchw@gmail.com
MT. OLYMPUS: Director: Dave Seibel	P.O. Box 2651 • Port Angeles, WA 98362	360-640-9472	daveseibel@sbcglobal.net
MOUNT SAINT HELENS: Director: Jim Anderson	P.O. Box 418 • Brush Prairie, WA 98606	360-835-5719	muleman1951@gmail.com
NISQUALLY: Director: Kim Merrick	P.O. Box 652 • Yelm, WA 98597	253-261-6288	eloise55@gmail.com
NORTHEAST: Director: Doug Stewart	P.O. Box 3094 • Deer Park, WA 99006	951-264-6283	dougstewart55@gmail.com
OAKLAND BAY: Director: Traci Koch	61 SE Craddick Rd • Shelton, WA 98584-9236	360-490-2878	ctracgo@aol.com
OKANOGAN VALLEY: Director: Margaret Swanberg	P.O. Box 812 • Tonasket, WA 98855	509-486-1107	emailmesoon704@gmail.com
OLYMPIC: Director: Chuck Regimbal	P.O. Box 250 • Belfair, WA 98528	360-871-5295	cnbregimbal@q.com
PENINSULA: Director: Don Gonder	P.O. Box 1931 • Port Angeles, WA 98362	425-802-6666	degbchwpc2016@outlook.com
PIERCE COUNTY: Director: Louise Caywood	21804 Mountain Hwy., #52 • Spanaway, WA 98387	253-732-8105	saddledupw@aol.com
PONDEROSA: Director: Ken Carmichael	P.O. Box 1184 • Airway Heights, WA 99001	509-466-2225	kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
PURPLE SAGE RIDERS: Director: Heather Moorman	25206 S Finley Rd • Kennewick, WA 99337	509-585-4001	bchwmembership@gmail.com
RATTLESNAKE RIDGE RIDERS: Director: Danny D. Chappel	P.O. Box 63 • Benton City, WA 99320	509-588-4342	chapchar05@bentonrea.com
SCATTER CREEK RIDERS: Director: Joan Fleming	P.O. Box 1016 • Rochester, WA 98579	360-273-8266	flemingjoan01@gmail.com
SKAGIT: Director: Marilyn Pineda	P.O. Box 188 • Sedro Woolley, WA 98284	360-202-8128	skagitbchw@gmail.com
TAHOMA: Director: Susan Heiser	P.O. Box 365 • Ravensdale, WA 98051	360-367-0495	heiser2@tx3.net
TRAIL DUSTERS: Director: Bob Iddins	5200 172nd St, NE • Arlington, WA 98223	804-695-4170	reiddins@gmail.com
WENAS VALLEY: Director: Teri Letcher	P.O. Box 1325 • Selah, WA 98942	206-478-9908	tletcher9@gmail.com
WENATCHEE VALLEY: Director: Ken Bailey	P.O. Box 1402 • Wenatchee, WA 98807	509-884-5566	ken@kbelectricllc.com
WHATCOM COUNTY: Director: Bill McKenna	P.O. Box 28607 • Bellingham, WA 98228	360-599-2526	wintercreek10@gmail.com
YAKIMA VALLEY: Director: Paula Moore	P.O. Box 11449 • Yakima, WA 98909	208-301-3705	deltadane@yahoo.com

Chapter Directors: This list is taken from the BCHW Directory located online at bchw.org.

Optional Members

Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "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
Lifetime Members	
Mitch Baird	IND
Amanda Biles	TAH
Penelope Booker	IND
Caleb Canby	MET
Janis Collett	PIE
Missy Day	TAH
Marianne Finrow	LEW
David Jackson	PSR
Lori Lennox	GRH
Kim Merrick	NIS
Heather Moorman	PSR
Dave Seibel	MTO
Bob Shonka	IND
Teri Starke	IND
Cathy Upper	MET
Carol Wilcox	WEN
Pat Wyers	MTA
2020 Annual Meeting Head Table	
Dr. Jack Gillette	PIE
2019 Annual Meeting Head Table	
Dave & Gail Sunde	FER
2020 Benefactor Level	
Terry & Suzanne Smith	IND
Dave & Gail Sunde	FER
2020 Patron Level	
Lisa & Tom Cohen	IND
Barbara Woo & Sott Bauer	CHC
Greg Johnston	IND
2020 Sustaining Level	
Connie & geen Baugher	MTA
Sandi Berg	CCR
Robert & Sheila Blakely	IND
Steve & Lynne Bridge	GRH
Donald & Christina Campbell	PIE
Mike Celestres	TAH
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH
Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR
Leslie Coey	IND
Stephen & Michelle Cooper	TAH
Patrick Dolan	MSH
Robert & Celeste Eversole	NOR
Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NOR
Margo Forstrom & Earl McNally	PIE
Dawn Graham	MTO
Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty	MET
Mary Kane	TAH
Bill Kehner	PIE
Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BUC
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford	PIE
Rob & Barbara Lathrop	IND
Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BUC
Kathryn & Steve Lewandowsky	CHC
Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND
Al & Marcy Norrbom	TAH
Mary & Dennis Owens	GRH
Kathy Russo	IND
Bob Showalter	RRR
Lynda Stafford	SCR
Jane & George Storrs	IND
Barb Talbot	IND
Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NOR
Louise & Peter Walton	NOR
Brenda & Greg Wiebe	MTA
JoAnn Yost	GRH
2020 Contributing Level	
Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC
Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH
David & Carrol Bainter	WIL
Andy & Debbie Bales	TAH
Bonnie Bentz	PIE
Sandra Boe	PIE
Bart & Velma Bradshaw	MET
Gene Brent	TAH
Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH
Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR
Thomas & Sandra Eddy	IND
Joanna/Dennis Ellington/Clifton	NOR
Ken & Pam Evans	MTA
Carol Finney	MSH
Robert Gish	NOR
Kevin & Lisa Graese	NOR
Butch & Jaima Havens	IND
Judith & Bob Hoyle	BUC
Diane Kamacho	CHC
Tony Karniss	LEW
Edris Kenan	TAH
Tracy Ketchum	TAH
Beau & Kelly LaCrosse	IND
Ed & Teri Letcher	TAH
Teren & Norman MacLeod	BUC
Tim Main	IND
Paul Mellick	RRR
Steve & Sandra Miller	YAK
Kris Moran	GRH
Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MET
Sarah Pearl & Batty Sack	MTO
Danielle & Carlos Ramos	IND
JoAnn Reider	TAH
Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MTA
Nancy Rust	MSH
Julia Seymour	WHA
Danny & Karen Stineback	MSH
Rick & Phoebe Trocano	MET
Wendy Walsh	OLY

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.

Ken Wilcox BCHW *In Memoriam*

BettyRae Shonka

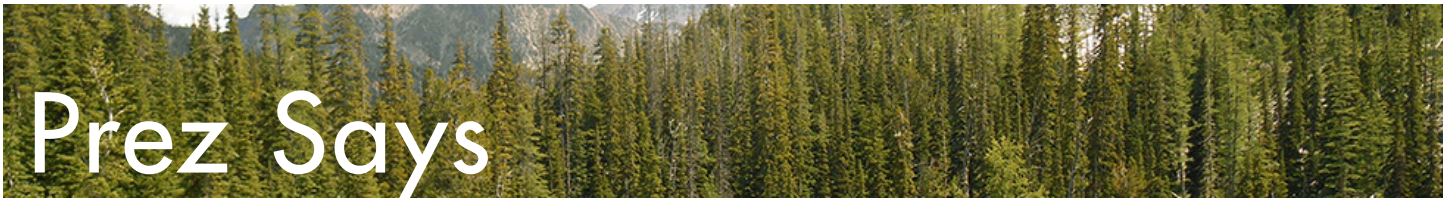
Trygve Culp

Jim Murphy

Teunis Wyers

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.



This Is The Time For... Inspiration, Innovation, Collaboration

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

Well folks, as I enter month four of a two-year presidency, it would be easy at a time like this to dwell on the uncertainty of our current situation. This is a time that we have never before experienced where we have been ordered off our public lands and asked to shelter in our homes for the sake of saving lives and protecting our most vulnerable. We all must do our part, but I refuse to accept this as the new normal in a less than normal time. I would rather share with BCHW members that I continue to be honored and proud to serve as your President at a time like this that just might help shape our organization for a prosperous future.

You might be asking yourself how we will survive as an equine trail riding community when we are operating under the current circumstances. But with tools such as Go-To-Meeting, Skype for Business, Zoom, and conference calls, we are finding ways to conduct business that cannot afford to wait until we are allowed to get back to normal. Some of these tools have been around for some time but most of us have not been forced to use them. We are now adopting them as a new effective resource that can be used now and in the future.

I would never say sitting in your home practicing "social distancing" with many miles between you and those that are attending online meetings is normal, but it has been helpful in most cases to be able to share information and conduct business that is time sensitive. I believe we cannot afford to wait for getting back to "normal". We must continue moving forward by working with various BCHW committees, engaging our partners, and working with our BCHW directors to help improve our organization's everyday image and business practices at all levels.

To help us propel forward, I challenge you to identify innovative ways we can continue to meet our commitment to the organization's mission.

Over the years, I have been able to serve on a few key recreation planning committees within Kittitas County; and it has always amazed me to see the responses the land managers gave us as Back Country Horsemen. By numbers, we are a much smaller user group than those that shared other seats on the committees. We didn't have paid staff representing us, but yet we were still at the table.

Why? Because, Back Country Horsemen members aren't short on work ethic. We have a pure spirit to serve and stand

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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.

Prez Says

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with passion and conviction related to our mission regarding our public lands and our ability to use them. While most of our country is standing still on this "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, most of us still wake up early to feed and care for our equine friends. This in itself brings a sense of normalcy and peace.

As our spring weather begins to push out the last of winter conditions and we start thinking of our summer trail projects, I challenge each of you to take a minute and call a friend you shared a work project with last summer or maybe someone you met at the State Wide Work Party or that person you shared the trail with last summer. Ask them if they are ready for another great trail season. I promise this will help raise our spirits and build a fighting heart to serve our passion of clearing trails and riding in the mountains with friends. Let's ensure when this COVID-19 pandemic is over we are in a position to secure a prosperous future of serving our mission statement.

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WESTERN DREAM RIDE

AT THE

Flying Horseshoe Ranch

CLE ELUM, WA

Adults $125 Kids 6-12 $60

Under 6 - Free

July 17, 18 and 19 2020

- Camp out on your own or rent one of the cabins, bunk houses or tipi encampments for ½ price. (Details on Flying Horseshoe Ranch's website @ www.flyinghorseshoeranch.com)
- Includes 5 home cooked meals!!!!!!
- Miles of trails & arena
- Shower facilities
- Swimming pool
- Raffle & Auction
- Cowboy Church
- Entertainment
- Corral rentals (limited)

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
OLYMPIC CHAPTER

See our Facebook page Olympic BCHW or website for details
www.Olympicbchw.org
Or contact:
Tawnya Caldwell @ (360) 265-4447
E-mail:
sisgiggles67@aol.com

501 C3

Membership Renewals and New Members For 2020

By Ken Carmichael, Membership Development Committee Chair

The official time for BCHW members to renew their memberships ended February 29, 2020. However, this does not mean that we must stop contacting past members. This is the time when people are again thinking of being outside and in the saddle.

This is the time to use our membership lists for members that have not renewed in the last several years. Their situations may have changed. Kids move away, they retire, interests change, and their time commitment may change. They may just need a gentle reminder that BCH is still around and doing good work. Give them a call and invite them to a meeting or other event. It is also a good time to ask them what their interests are and how BCH can meet some of their needs.

The strength of BCHW is in its membership.

Each chapter provides a different social, educational, work party, etc., environment. Please identify what you offer to BCHW members and stress these values to past and future members.

A good tool to help you identify ways to contact potential members is the BCHW Membership Development Manual. This was provided at several workshops around the state and at the last Leadership Training. Find out who has this manual and identify ideas you can use to increase membership. A copy is on the Director Website under Chapter Guidelines.

The strength of BCHW is in its membership. This means that we must continually search for people who keep BCHW strong.

BCHW Membership Announcement

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	$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	$1200.00

UNDAUNTED! The 2019 BCHW Award *(eventually)* Goes To...

By Mary Jo Krutak, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Trail Warrior

Willie Kemper – Methow Valley Chapter

Willie is not only an accomplished and dedicated packer and sawyer, but he is handy with his tractor, clearing campsites at the new North Summit Horse Campground. He also turns his hand to the barbecue and to helping cook Sunday breakfast at the Spring Ride. His main interest, however, is keeping the trails open and usable and his chapter appreciates his packing abilities and his two mules, Sadie & Pearl.

Paul Velotta – Tahoma Chapter

Paul provides valuable stock support (over 1,000 recorded hours) on King County Parks, DNR and FS land on various work parties, which include working closely with organizations such as the WTA and the FS. A WTA member stated that his project leadership and work on the Pratt Connector staircase, located in the Middle Fork Valley, was the work of a skilled craftsman. He and his mules Piper and Maggie are always ready to help, and he surprises everyone in camp with ice cream bars.

Rob & Tracey Michael – Ferry County Chapter

Rob & Tracey have worked tirelessly on numerous trails in the Colville National Forest, DNR & WDFW land, working closely with these agencies supporting our mission statement. They have packed supplies in and out of the Snow Peak Shelter, for example, where there is a cabin and were instrumental in replacing the front porch. They are the contact for trail work for their chapter & they sponsor an annual Chapter ride called the Sherman Creek Ride.

Lopper

Sherrie Murphy – Wenas and Yakima Valley Chapters

Sherrie contributes not only to BCHW trail projects (including packing tools and supplies) & fundraisers but also to the Forest Service (i.e. conducted LNT training) and the WDFW. Sherrie has been instrumental by packing in fish stock to over 25 different wilderness lakes in the past 5 years, resulting in 45 plants of around 29,500 cutthroat and rainbow trout.

Linda Morin – Peninsula Chapter

Linda is referred to as an ambassador for BCHW. She was instrumental in the development of the 3S Trail Safety program that has been adopted at the state level. She has organized the BCHW participation of the Dungeness River Festival, teaching LNT and 3S Trail Safety to more than 950 elementary students and 450 adults. It does not matter if it is special events, education, assisting with packing, VIP rides, Linda always says yes.

Ray Gabert – Crab Creek Riders

Ray is a founding member of his chapter and has held many different offices. Ray has an endless willingness to step-up and say "yes" to whatever needs to be done. He has been a driving force in the Northrup Canyon Old Wagon Road Restoration project, working with WA. State Parks. Ray shares his knowledge and experience with the chapter as a mentor, guide and instructor.

Camp Cook

Dick Booth – Scatter Creek Riders

Dick is known for his gourmet dishes at the campfire, at meetings (i.e. pies, homemade pizza) and special events. His wife Vicki is always there to lend a hand, too. He has helped promote better participation among members and fostered a great relationship with the DNR staff at Capitol Forest (i.e. attend meetings and for a BBQ after a ride). His contributions go beyond his cooking skills, he participates in trailhead cleanup, too. Whatever needs to be done.

Cinch

Kim Merrick – Nisqually & Peninsula Chapters

Kim has been critical to keeping BCHW on track and moving forward at the state level for years. Currently, she is the Education Chair and a State Event Volunteer. She has been the Rendezvous Auction and organizer chair and SWWP food chair. She led the kitchen crew preparing 3 meals a day for 4-5 days for 70+ trail workers for 7 SWWP. Kim exceeds the expectations of the Cinch Award as she consistently and competently contributes to the BCHW Mission, serving at the state level, year after year.

Desk Jockey

Darlene Walton – Wenatchee Valley Chapter

Darlene has been a member since 1995 and has been the treasurer since 1999! She was instrumental for managing the chapter's annual Steak Ride, has done volunteer hours, membership, publicity, and continues to lead LNT for the chapter. Darlene has done everything from trail work (i.e. development and maintenance of the Ken Wilcox horse camp) to managing events and meals. She keeps the wheels running for the Chapter.

BCHW Junior

Hadlee Young – Traildusters Chapter

Hadlee, who is six years old, is the youngest active Trailduster member for the past three years. She is the VP of the junior group, participates in LNT Awareness booths, check points at prize rides, monthly educational meetings, 4th of July Traildusters parade and National Trails Day awareness. Hadlee is dedicated to the growth of juniors and LNT, gladly educating strangers. Her passion is contagious.

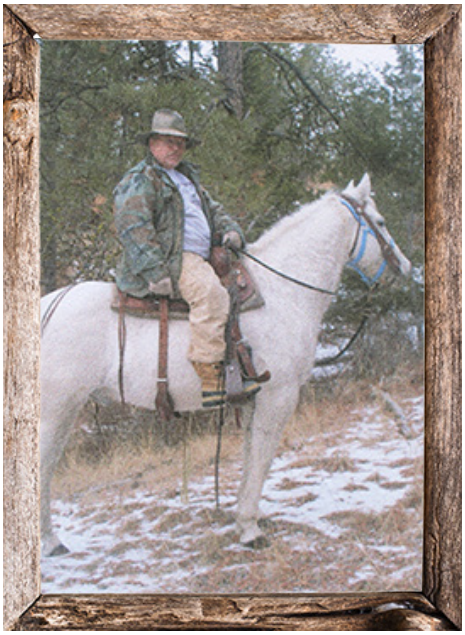
We are looking at some different dates to recognize in person the award recipients, but currently it is difficult to determine exact dates. We will be working with chapter directors to hand off the award at the next BOD meeting to save freight costs.

The BCHW Awards Committee wants to thank everyone who nominated or contributed to a nomination. It was truly impressive the amount of work that was put into recognizing your fellow members. We also want to thank the chapters and businesses, specifically Trail Head Supply, Chris Tornow Saddlemaker, and Harbor Saw & Supply Inc that donated and sponsored the Awards program. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Backbone

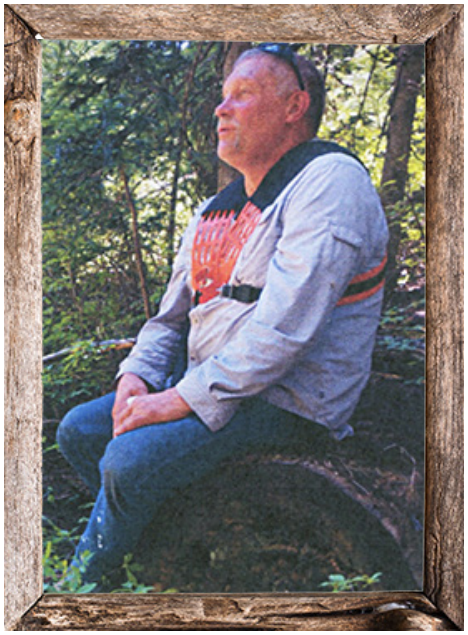
George & Lu Young – Ferry County Chapter

Members for 35 years. George & Lu were instrumental in starting two chapters, Peninsula and Ferry County. They continually serve in Chapter Office positions. George & Lu have spent countless hours working with the Forest Service, supporting stock use in the Colville National Forest (i.e. plan review process, educating other groups, packing in supplies & tools). Lu also provides local and regional media with highlights of all BCHW efforts. Their passion for the BCHW mission is never ending. They continue to assist with logout on over 50 miles of trail each year.



Jim Anderson – Mount ST. Helens Chapter

Jim is willing to take on any project. He is that special person who keeps the partnership strong between Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, DNR, and WTA, to name a few. When DNR needed assistance getting a WCC crew in, they called Jim. When the FS needed assistance with a bridge, they called Jim. He has held several offices/roles (i.e. President, State VP, Director), helps with chapter booths, prize ride fundraisers, SWWPs, state tack sales. He will do whatever is necessary to get things done (i.e. helped set up a Regional Work Party and a chainsaw training class), advocating the BCHW Mission Statement.



Greg Dielman – Tahoma Chapter

Greg is the "all-around-go to" for trail work, (coordinating, packing in tools etc.) as well as camp cook! He serves in many capacities (i.e. President). making things happen. He took the lead for the chapter on Forest Service properties. (i.e. Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest.) working closely with the WTA, PCTA and PNTA. He and his wife, Olga, are also an integral part of the Tahoma fundraising ride responsible for the food. Greg always steps up to fill gaps (i.e. past president) and carry forward with whatever needs to be done with humility and grace.

President's Diamond

Ken & Sherrie Elliot – Northeast Chapter

Ken and Sherrie have contributed to our trail system and organization for 32 years. They have been instrumental in supporting the BCHW mission in the Spokane area. In 2019, when the BCHW Hotshot crew went to the Pasayten Airport to log trails, it was not a big deal for Ken & Sherrie to make the 25 mile trip to the airport and log trails for a week. This work comes second nature to them both. But to see this done with their daughter Erin & grandson Ethan, you know they have been living the "Dedication, Passion and Commitment to the BCHW Mission" from the beginning.

Darrell Wallace – Northeast Chapter, BCHA National Chairman

Darrell is the personification of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW Mission. His friendship, guidance, and advice has seen us through some amazing accomplishments. Darrell's response when discussing issues of "how does this issue have anything to do with the mission statement?" says it all. There have been many trips, even cross country, and countless meetings where Jason Ridlon and Darrell, at times, have had the same dog chasing its own tail, but Darrell has always held true to the BCHW mission and our work.

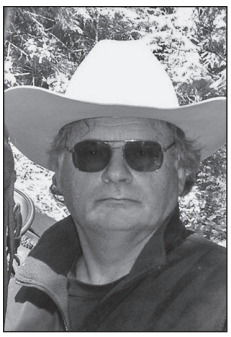
Lifetime Achievement

Doc & Deb Wesselius – Lewis County Chapter

Doc & Deb have shown a lifetime of dedication (over 22,000 hours) to BCHW in a variety of ways. They have held several different offices and served on numerous committees, such as Chapter President, LNT chair, trail boss, BCHW Awards Chair, Chapter Grant Manager, and Deb remains the BCHW Volunteer Hours Chair. They have provided thousands of hours of packing support over the years (for other orgs too i.e. Forest Serve, WTA, etc.), working on trails, always educating others (i.e. how to empty gravel from a pack horse, knot tying, Expo's, saw certification, etc.), and promoting the BCHW Mission Statement. Thank you for your extraordinary leadership & dedication.

Mike McGlenn – Whatcom Chapter

Mike has dedicated his lifetime not only to BCHW but to BCHA too. You name it, Mike has done it, not only for BCHW, but across the country for BCHA and continues to do so! Mike joined BCHW in 1985 and has held several offices and served on countless committees at the local (such as Chapter President), state (State President), and national (BCHA Director and Chairman) levels. He also served on BCHA Finance committee, Media and Marketing Committee, and DNR planning committees and is still serving on the BCHA executive committee, to name a few. Mike has promoted helmet safety, created the Chapter logo, and was instrumental in allowing horses on Blanchard Mountain. His accomplishments are too numerous to list! Thank you, Mike, for your passion for our mission.



BCHW Legislative Report

By Jeff Chapman, Legislative Chair

The 2020 Washington State legislative session ended on March 12, 2020. This is the "short" session being the mid-term year for a two-year budget. While it is intended to focus on supplementing the budget and tweaking adjustments for the full term, it has ended up being a cram year where many legislators submitted legislation they thought had a chance of passing due to the need for rapid processing. That said, there were some 1700 bills that were under consideration.

We monitored 46 bills, 15 of which were carryovers from last session. As it turns out, the carryovers weren't considered this session, which left us with 31 bills. We had concerns with 11 of these bills and supported 20. Of the 20 we supported, 9 became law. Of the 11 we had concerns with, 3 became law. Of those 3 that became law, the one we had the most concern with was HB2317/SB6300 "Concerning Animal Welfare". We spent a lot of time on this set of companion bills as they moved through the committees and chambers. They were amended a number of times, and we felt the final amendment made the version that became enacted acceptable to us.

The other 2 concern bills that passed were HB2242 "Concerning Travel Trailers" and HB 2571 "Meaningful Enforecement of Fish and Wildlife Violation." We did not actively engage since our concerns were minor.

PHOTO BY JIM THODE

PHOTO BY JIM THODE

We are pleased with the 9 bills that initially passed the Legislture that we supported. However, two of these bills did not survive the veto of the Governor as a result of projections of economic losses and measures taken to counter COVID-19.

HB 2579 Establishing a wild horse holding and training program at Coyote Ridge corrections center. (FULL VETO)

HB 2601 Concerning the authority of the parks and recreation commission to approve leases.

SB 6072/HB2338 Dividing the state wildlife account into the fish, wildlife, and conservation account and the limited fish and wildlife account.

SB 6168/HB2325 Supplemental operating appropriations. (PARTIAL VETO)

SB 6248/HB2324 Concerning the capital budget.

SB 6670 Encouraging access to state parks through cooperative programs with libraries

The capital budget had items that we will be following up with (and no negative riders). The State Parks request for funding for planning the bridge replacement for the burned Crab Creek Bridge (250,000) is in the budget. We expect to see a capital project request for the construction in the 2021 budget request.

We did support companion bills that would allow DNR to desiginate recreational shooting areas on their lands away from trailheads and camping areas. These bills had technical

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BCHW Bylaw And Standing Rules Review And Revision

By Ken Carmichael, Governance & Bylaws Chair

We are interested in reviewing the BCHW bylaws and Standing Rules. The bylaws have not been revised since September 2016 and there are several items that can be updated. We would like to consolidate all items into one revision.

We are inviting all BCHW members to provide input on changes that they feel may be appropriate. Ideas will be organized and presented to the board in September. This means that we need all suggestions by August 1, 2020.

To revise the bylaws, changes are presented to the board at one meeting (September) then voted on at the next meeting, provided that the changes have been presented in the Trailhead news at least 60 days prior to the vote.

It will help if you can reference a specific section of the bylaws and some rationale for the change. You may also reference a Standing Rule or suggest a new one.

These are the tools we use to guide the operation of Back Country Horsemen and the chapters. We want them to reflect the best practices of the organization.

You can send your suggestions to:
Ken Carmichael
Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com

BCHW Legislative Report

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issues and didn't pass, but we hope better-worded bills come back in the long session. Our own Joan Fleming testified on the need to continue this discussion with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee through the summer and fall.

The only Discover Pass change bill we supported was SB 6670 – mentioned above (IT DID PASS).

The Legislative session finished as the infections due to COVID-19 were beginning to escalate. At this point, the full impact on the Washington State economy from the stay-in-place and closures orders has not been determined. Our State land agencies are operating at reduced capacity. It is reasonable to believe that some projects that were approved for funding may still not move forward in the near future due to limitations on staff resources. Priorities are changing as the government starts planning the restart of the economy.

Another matter that we spent time on was the proposed revision of WAC 246-203-130 Domestic Animal Waste as recommended by the State Board of Health. The stiff rules in this proposed revision would make owning and keeping horses virtually out of reach for the average horse owner or small boarding stable. In addition, it is questionable whether you could ride horses on public lands without manure catchers. While we recognize the need for proper manure management, we feel there are more effective ways to work with horse owners than unrealistic and unnecessary restrictions.

Ken Wilcox BCHW In-Memoriam

By Teri Stark

The number of Lifetime Memberships continues to grow. In addition, as time passes, unfortunately, some of our Lifetime Members have passed away. We want to continue to honor these individuals. After conversations with Ken Carmichael (BCHW Bylaws and Governance Chair), he and I came up with the idea of an "In-Memoriam" section in the THN and on the website. Members may purchase an In-Memoriam for family or a member who has passed away. Names will be placed below the Lifetime Memberships list, which is on page 2 of The Trailhead News (THN). In addition, Lifetime Members who have passed away will have their names moved to that section. We are going to create an In-Memoriam section on the website, as well. As I do believe this section will fill up quickly, it will be necessary to remove older entries from the THN but they will continue on the website. In this the first THN with a "Ken Wilcox BCHW In Memoriam" membership section, BettyRae Shonka will be joined by our Lifetime Members who have sadly passed away: Trygve Culp, Jim Murphy and Teunis Wyers.

Thank you, Bob Shonka, for a wonderful donation in BettyRae's name that gave us the impetus to create the "Ken Wilcox BCHW In-Memoriam" membership section honoring our family and friends who are no longer with us. If you are interested in purchasing a Memoriam for your loved one, give me a call, 253-709-5052.

Letter From Representative Kilmer

We often ask our members to write our federal and state legislators to support bills that would better our opportunities for maintaining and riding trails on our public lands. There is a bill in Congress, HR 5797, that would study increasing the funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP Full Funding Act of 2020). BCHW relies on RTP as the main source of grant funding to support our trail maintenance grants. We have 3 trail maintenance grants and 1 education/LNT grant, all using RTP revenues. The first Representative from Washington State to support this bill was Congressman Derek Kilmer, who signed up as a cosponsor soon after receiving a request from one of our Grays Harbor Chapter members. Writing or calling your legislators on an issue can get results, particularly on good bills that assist with public land management.

DEREK KILMER
6th District, Washington

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4706

OFFICES:
1410 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5916

950 Pacific Avenue
Suite 1230
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 272-3515

345 6th Street
Suite 500
Bremerton, WA 98337
(360) 373-9725

www.kilmer.house.gov

Dear JoAnn,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the importance of providing robust funding for recreational trails. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me. I'm with you!
In our neck of the woods, we know how access to the outdoors shapes our culture and how outdoor recreation plays an important role in our regional economy. In fact, getting out on the trails in our region have been some of the best experiences I've had with my family. With that in mind, I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Recreational Trails Full Funding Act (H.R.5797). This bill would provide increased funding for the Recreational Trails Program, which has allowed states to develop and maintain recreational trails that allow Americans to access outdoor activities including hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, and more.
I strongly support this bill, as well as other efforts to responsibly improve access to our lands and waters. Please know that moving forward, I will continue to promote that ethic.
Thank you for reaching out and for your engagement on this issue. I encourage you to continue to share your views with me on this or any other topic. It is an honor to serve as your representative.

Sincerely,

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Sign up for Representative Derek Kilmer's E-Memo
Click here to receive our bi-weekly email update about Congress.

Improve Government Efficiency
If you see opportunities in which your tax dollars can be used more efficiently or effectivel y, let me know here .

Please do not reply to this email. The mailbox is unattended.
To share your thoughts please visit my webpage .

Grand Canyon Trip February 2020

By Chuck and Betsy Regimbal, Patti Wible and Debbie Ross

Patti Wible, Debbie Ross, Chuck and Betsy Regimbal rode the mules down into the Grand Canyon. We were able to get reservations for a group of 4 as late as October, 2019. On Friday, February 7, 2020, we drove to Seattle, had dinner, and spent the night at the Clarion Hotel. Saturday morning, we flew to Las Vegas, rented a car, and spent the night at the Golden Nugget. The Freemont area was great fun with lots of people sightseeing. That night, a heavy metal band played a block away and on the same side of the hotel as our rooms. The building shook. Not much sleep. The next day, we drove 280 miles to the Grand Canyon, stopping briefly at the Road Kill Café on Route 66, then stopped at a western tack store in Williams, then on to the Grand Canyon. We stayed the night at the Bright Angel Lodge, on the south rim.

The South rim is at an elevation of 7,000 feet. Early on Monday, we had a briefing and met the other riders. Our group totaled 9 riders and two guides. At about 8 AM, we headed down the Bright Angel Trail. The weather was freezing at the top. As we descended, the weather warmed up, eventually reaching into the 50's. We had lunch at Indian Gardens about half way down. We crossed the Colorado river on the black bridge and arrived at the Phantom Ranch at about 1 PM. The Phantom Ranch is at an elevation of 2,500 feet, a 4,500 foot descent. We found our cabin with bunk beds, unloaded our stuff, and headed to the cafeteria for a beer. One couple was from England. We hiked around some and had dinner. The next day, we were served breakfast and provided a sack lunch.

We then hiked the area. Chuck and Debbie crossed the river on the silver bridge and hiked the one mile back up to the black bridge, getting great pictures. To show what the trail was like check this picture out.

Hiking around the area, we were introduced to the great history of this place. Much of it was built in the 1920's and 1930's. There are informative kiosks all around explaining what happened here or there. There was a cross canyon telephone line built in 1935 from the north rim down to Phantom Ranch then up to the south rim where the El Tovar lodge stood. Some poles with isolators are still standing. There is a grave marker for the foreman who died while building the river trail, part of the Bright Angel Trail, by blasting out the cliff face - the one Debbie and Chuck

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Grand Canyon Trip February 2020

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walked on. There is an ancient Anasazi settlement near the Ranch. There is much to see and the vistas everywhere are outstanding. After another great dinner, we were tired and hit the sack. Early Wednesday, we had breakfast and were on our mules by 7:30.

We took the Kaibab Trail up. It is steeper, but shorter. The trail rose steadily. The mules rested often. Here is another photo of the four of us on our mules at one of the rest stops. Note the beautiful blue skies.

There were hundreds, maybe thousands of water breaks (logs) across the trail, so it was like a long staircase as shown in this photo where the trail snakes up the hill sides.

Most of the trail is very wide. A lot of the edges are lined with rocks to keep the mules from edge-walking.

The narrowest point, and the most dramatic section of trail is the short section called Skeleton Point, shown here.

This is the last point at which you can see the Colorado River, far down in the canyon.

We reached the top at about 1 PM, and were bussed back to the Bright Angel Lodge. We cleaned up and headed for the bar where we met the folks from England for one last hurrah.

We spent the night again at the Bright Angel Lodge. On Thursday, we drove to the Riverside Casino in Laughlin, Nevada, and spent the night there. Friday morning, we drove to the airport in Las Vegas, and flew to Seattle, then drove home, arriving home just after dark.

Compared to the trails we are used to here in the northwest, the trails in the Grand Canyon are like highways. We do recommend, if you can, to do this trip. Betsy and Chuck have done it twice. Patti is ready to go again. Debbie would do it again, but she is one and done, looking for the next new adventure.

Reservations for a small group can almost always be made not too far in advance of your planned trip. If you are planning a large group, you might need a year for planning. On Tuesday, while we were hiking around, the rider string coming down that day consisted of TWO riders and two wranglers. Cancelations happen. The Phantom ranch is the bottleneck for reservations, which also takes reservations for hikers and river rafters.

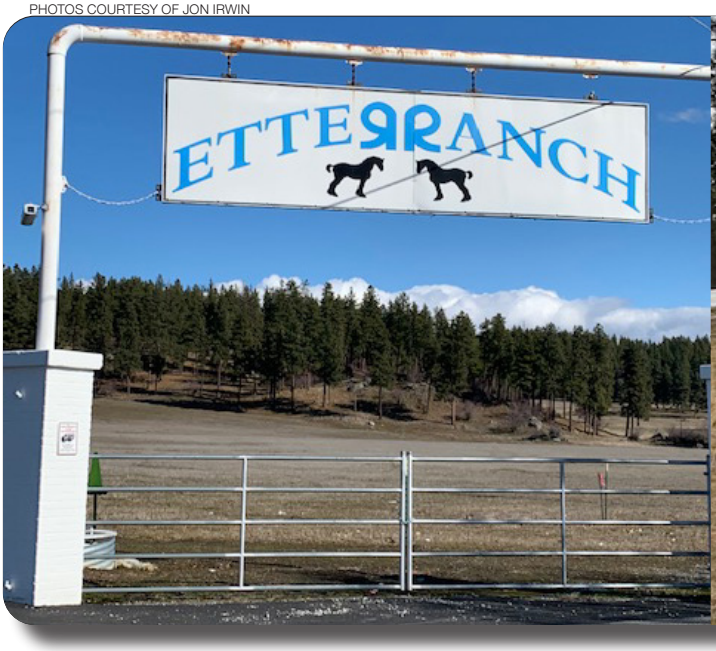
We recommend doing this trip in February, as the weather is decent. If you delay to later in the year, say June, the weather at the bottom can get as hot as 120 degrees Fahrenheit and the trails are very crowded with hikers. The snakes, scorpions, and bugs are out. Even in February we encountered a lot of hikers, but no snakes or bugs.

Although our trip took a full week, 7 nights and 8 days, you can compress it a lot. You could drive to Seatac early, fly early into Vegas, then drive to the Grand Canyon all in the same day. You will still need to stay at the Bright Angel Lodge or the El Tovar just before and just after the mule rides. We recommend spending two nights at the Phantom Ranch to give yourself time to rest and check out the area and absorb its history. If you only stay one night at the Phantom Ranch and ride up the next day, the trip is compressed even more. You could then drive back to Vegas and take a later flight home, doing the whole trip in just 4 days and 3 nights. We figured to reduce stress and, while in the area, check things out. Much more relaxing.

Happy Trails,

Work Project Antoine Peak Conservation Area

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JON IRWIN



By Jon Irwin, Director IEBCH

Recently Spokane County acquired Etter Ranch, a 230 acre parcel abutting the southern border of Antoine Peak Conservation Area. Antoine Peak is now a 1,296 acre park just north of Spokane Valley, WA. It provides year-round access for non-motorized recreation and is very popular for hiking, biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and horseback riding.

Etter Ranch is a beautiful property with large, open grass areas, southern exposure hillsides, good gravel roads, and a large, self-filling stock tank. Etter Ranch is at considerably lower elevation than most of Antoine Peak. It will provide year-round hiking and at least three season biking and horseback riding. It will also improve winter grazing for the numerous deer and occasional moose and elk residing in the park. It is hoped this will lessen deer encroachment on surrounding privately owned properties.

Paul Knowles, Parks Special Project Manager, contacted Inland Empire Backcountry Horsemen (IEBCH) and asked if we could coordinate the removal of the barbed wire fencing from the northern and southern borders of Etter Ranch and a barbed wire holding pen. IEBCH also drafted a letter of support for the County's grant application for funding to cover part of the purchase price of the property.

Day 1 of the anticipated multiple day project was March 6th. Thirteen members from IEBCH participated, along with two volunteers from the Evergreen East Mountain Bike Alliance. Robin Waddell and Debbie Blair cooked a great breakfast and lunch. After some 95 volunteer hours, work went quicker than anticipated and approximately 2/3 of the fencing was removed in one day. The work permit from Spokane County lasts until May 31, 2020.

The plan going forward is to remove the rest of the fencing with small groups of volunteers as people find the time. However, given "shelter in place" and "social distancing" concerns due to the coronavirus pandemic, at least for now, work will only take place if appropriate precautions can be maintained.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JON IRWIN

Why Horse Camp?

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT EVERSOLE

By Robert Eversole, TrailMeister

We love our horses and mules. We love trail riding and we love being outdoors. What could be better? Camping. While there is certainly something to be said for crashing on the couch and binge watching British costume dramas, visiting a horse camp and living outdoors for a few days with our animals just an arm's length away is much more appealing. Horse camping is a way to be adventurous, make memories of a lifetime, and spend quality time with impressive people. Here's six more reasons to try it this year!

It's Healthy

Camping does a body good. Nearly every aspect of camping provides health benefits, from being more active, getting more natural light, fresh air, mental health, and more. Research shows that time spent outdoors can improve your blood pressure, improve digestion, and give your immune system an extra boost. When you spend a few days outside, you'll get some serious health benefits.

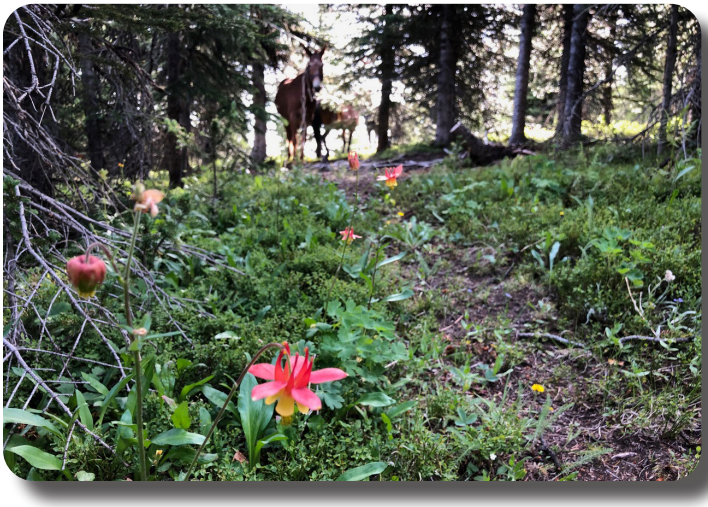


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT EVERSOLE

It's Tradition

Horse camping is an activity steeped in history and tradition. Images of cowboys warming themselves by the campfire after a long day on the trail create powerful urges within us to go out and recreate those scenes. When we're in a horse camp, I like to think of the people who, decades ago, decided that this spot would be perfect for camping with stock. And then built it.

It's Immersion in Nature

Any type of equine camping, whether it's a tent deep in the backcountry or parking the LQ at a guest ranch, is an enveloping experience. You'll see wildlife in their natural settings, you'll enjoy million dollar views from your tent or trailer door, and you'll feel the sun on your face (as well as the rain and the wind!). The stars; oh my the celestial bodies that you'll view on a dark night. The sounds. From the soft crunch of the ponies contentedly chewing hay to the yips of the coyotes in the distance, and the trills of songbirds flitting through camp. And the adventures in nature that you'll experience!

It'll Put You in a Good Mood

Researchers have linked outdoor activities to a decrease in depressive thoughts. The feeling of happiness that you get when you take your first breath of air at the campground is

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Why Horse Camp?

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT EVERSOLE

because of the burst of serotonin that you get from the extra oxygen of the outdoors. Sleeping under the stars also helps you get in touch with your natural circadian rhythms, a foundation for high quality sleep and health.

It's a Digital Detox

Sometimes you just need a break from technology. It might be hard to escape it at home, but most parks and campgrounds have poor, or no cell connections. Horse camps are perfect places to put down the high tech devices in our lives and focus on the basics. Sit back and relax with a good book, write in a journal, or just enjoy watching the horses graze. Use this digital down time as a way to connect with nature and reconnect with each other. Time without electronic distractions forces you to connect with others and with yourself, which is a pretty amazing experience.

It's New Challenges and Life Skills

No two camping trips are exactly the same, and that's good. A University of Michigan study shows that new experiences help keep brains healthy. New activities that are both physically and intellectually stimulating have the greatest effect on brain health, and horse camping fits both of these criteria. Camping also makes you rely on yourself to meet your basic needs; purifying water, making a fire, etc. Being able to build these skills gives you confidence and self-worth that carries over into all other aspects of your life. It just takes a little effort and guidance, and you'll be setting up tents in no time!

Planning a horse camping trip is one of the pleasures of the trip. From choosing the right places to visit to figuring what you'll do when you get there, you'll learn a lot throughout the process. Here's a start for you - the largest guide to horse camps in the US – www.TrailMeister.com – Pick a state, then start looking through all of the camps and their amenities and features for you to enjoy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT EVERSOLE

Please clip out and mail

Permanent and Temporary Address Change Form

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

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

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.

22nd Ride to Rendezvous
Monday-Friday, May 4-8, 2020
Winthrop, WA
Contact:outfitters@woga.org
or 509-997-1080

32nd Annual Packers Rendezvous
Friday-Sunday, May 8-10, 2020
Winthrop City Park, WA
Contact:outfitters@woga.org
or 509-997-1080

Basic Skills Leave No Trace Class
Saturday – Sunday, April 25 & 26, 2020
Sahara Creek CG, Elbe State Forest
Cost: $75.00
Contact: Jane Byram 509-997-7407
Register: email Louise,
saddledupw@aol.com

Oakland Bay Chapter BCHW Fun Ride
Saturday, May 16, 2020
First rider out: 9:00-11:00 am
Kennedy Creek, Old Olympic Hwy.
Overnight camping available
Registration: $25 includes: Lunch, Ride, Prize Ticket.
Addtl. Prize Tickets are 5 for $5.00
Contact: Traci (360) 701-2878 Call or Txt ctracgo@aol.com or Debbi (360) 701-9880 Call or Text. debbieb@hcc.net

Mount St. Helens Chapter 4-Day Work Party
Thursday-Sunday, June 18-21, 2020
Kalama Horse Camp | Cinnamon Trail
Contact Jim Anderson:
muleman1951@gmail.com

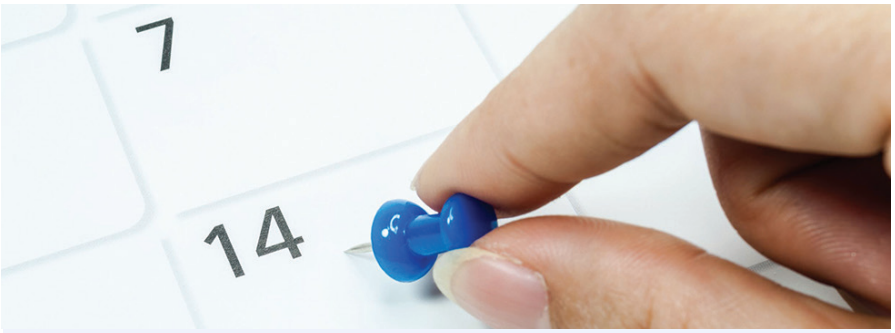
Grays Harbor Chapter Fund Ride
Saturday, June 20, 2020
Behind Matlock Store, 0.7 miles down
Beeville Rd., turn right, follow signs
Register the day of the ride
Camping Fri/Sat, out by 3pm Sun -
(see flier for all details!)
No pass required
Cost $20, includes lunch and 2 prize tickets
Barb Paris, 360-482-4197
ibriding@centurytel.net

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting
Saturday, June 20, 2020
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick
360-640-1495 • bchwexec@bchw.org

State Wide Work Party
Friday-Thursday, July 3-8, 2020

4th Annual Fun Ride & Used Tack Sale Skagit Chapter
Saturday, July 11, 2020
Les Hilde Trailhead
6998 Medford Rd, Sedro Woolley, WA
Contact: skagitbchw@gmail.com or call Linda Riley at (360) 421-0992

Ferry County Chapter High Alpine Country Steak Ride
Friday: July 24-26, 2020
First Rider Out 9:00 AM
Jungle Hill Campground
Hwy 20, east of Republic
Over Sherman Pass,
left on Albian Hill Rd to CG
Bring a sack lunch and water
Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required
Free Camping Available
Registration: $25.00 Adult
Children under 12 - $15
Includes: Steak Dinner, Silent Auction, Sunday Breakfast
Contact: Doris Bacon (509) 775-3544
email: fccbchtreas@yahoo.com
Lesa Gregory (509) 690-2773
email: lesagregory83@yahoo.com
Website: fccbchw.com



Mark Your Calendars for the Fee-Free Days!

National Get Outdoors Day: June 13, 2020
National Park Service Birthday: August 25, 2020
National Public Lands Day: Sept. 26, 2020
Veterans Day: Nov. 11, 2020

Example

Your Chapter Ride or Event Must Be Open To All BCHW Members To Have A FREE Listing

Lines in the listing have a maximum character count of 32, including spaces. Please keep this in mind.

Please submit the following information with your event listing to 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_____

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

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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.

Ponderosa BCH Poker Ride
Saturday, August 29, 2020
Hotcake feed starts 8:00
First rider out 9:00
Raffle
Pre-registration by 8/19 $25
Register at ride $30
Riverside State Park, Spokane
Camping available
Ken Carmichael 509-466-2225
Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
www.pbchw.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 July/August 2020 Newsletter is June 1st

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.