

# The Trailhead News

Vol. 45 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2020



***See Article on Page 13-14***



[www.bchhw.org](http://www.bchhw.org)

**OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b> Jason Ridlon president@bchw.org.....	509.699.9927
<b>Vice President</b> Rob Deboer vice_pres@bchw.org.....	360.770.5082
<b>Secretary</b> Tina Short secretary@bchw.org.....	509.306.8996
<b>Treasurer</b> Teri Starke treasurer@bchw.org.....	253.709.5052
<b>BCHA Director - Pos 1</b> - Bill McKenna bcha_dir1@bchw.org.....	360.599.2526
<b>BCHA Director - Pos 2</b> - Jason Ridlon bcha_dir2@bchw.org.....	509.699.9927
<b>Alternate</b> Doug Stewart dougstewart55@gmail.com.....	206.551.7824

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

<b>Awards</b> Mary Jo Krutak Mjkrutak@outlook.com.....	425.301.2907
<b>Education</b> Kim Merrick eloise55@gmail.com.....	253.261.6188
<b>Governance &amp; By-Laws</b> Ken Carmichael gov_and_bylaws@bchw.org.....	509.466.2225
<b>Grant Administration</b> Darrell Wallace bcha_dir1@bchw.org.....	360.918.3016
<b>Historian</b> Vacant	
<b>Leave No Trace Education</b> Jane Byram LNT@bchw.org.....	509.997.7407
<b>Legislative</b> Mitzi Schindele pacificogirl@gmail.com.....	360.269.0870
<b>Membership</b> Dana Chambers membership@bchw.org.....	206.498.6952
<b>Membership Development</b> Ken Carmichael kcarmichael2225@gmail.com.....	509.466.2225
<b>Photography</b> Jim Thode webboss@bchw.org.....	360.978.5336
<b>Public Lands</b> Kathy Young public_land@bchw.org.....	206.551.7824
<b>Safety</b> Chuck Regimbal safetychair@bchw.org.....	360.871.5295
<b>Saw Program</b> Tom Mix backcountrypacker.mix@gmail.com.....	360.582.0460
<b>Tony Karniss</b> tkarniss@gmail.com.....	360.748.8640
<b>Stores</b> Lori Lennox llennox82@gmail.com.....	360.482.2742
<b>Special Projects Coordinator</b> Jason Ridlon jhridlon@fairpoint.net.....	509.699.9927
<b>Volunteer Copy Editor/Proof Reader</b> Sandra Johnston sjohn1234@aol.com.....	253.843.2679
<b>THN Editor</b> Dick Yarboro ridgerider001@gmail.com.....	360.481.2132
<b>Volunteer Hours Chair:</b> Deb Wesselius volunteerhours@bchw.org.....	360.736.6106
<b>Ways &amp; Means</b> Teri Starke ways_means@bchw.org.....	253.709.5052
<b>Calendar Editor</b> Teri Crawford calendareditor@bchw.com	
<b>Webmaster</b> Scott Lee webboss@bchw.org.....	360.481.3066

**STAFF:**

<b>Executive Director</b> Nicole Sedgwick bchwexec@bchw.org.....	360.640.1495
<b>Lobbyist</b> Joyce Willms joyce@wamedia.com.....	360.754.4543
<b>THN Managing Editor/Publisher, Creative Dir.</b> Adriane Goodwin bchw@wamedia.com.....	360.754.4543

Inside this Issue .. . . . . [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org)

Chapter Locations & Directors .. . . . . 1

Optional Members .. . . . . 2

Prez Says .. . . . . 3-4

BCHW Bylaws Revision .. . . . . 5

BCHW Awards Report Page .. . . . . 6-7

BCHW Membership Development for 2021 .. . . . . 8

Importance of Reliable Communications .. . . . . 9-10

Grants

LaPush Beach Trail 2 Bridge Removal and Replacement .. . . 11

Out On The Trails

Buckhorn Range Chapter at LeBar Horse Camp

for National Public Lands Day .. . . . . 12

Riding Escure Ranch .. . . . . 13-14

BCHW Virtual Winery Ride .. . . . . 14

An Epic Women's Trip To National Parks .. . . . . 15-16

Mt. St. Helen's Chapter of BCHW Joined up for a

Camp-out at Keenes Horse Camp August 17th .. . . . . 17

Calendar of Events .. . . . . Outside Back Cover

Cover Photo: Wall Lake on Escure Ranch, left to right, Melissa Haplin, Ken and Patty Carmichael, and Dick Yarboro. Photo by Marty Hilton

**Disclaimer**

Articles which appear in The Trailhead News (THN) do not necessarily reflect the position, opinion or endorsement of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), its officers, committee chairs, staff or Washington Media Services, Inc. (WMS). BCHW and WMS are not responsible for the accuracy of all material and advertisements. Appearance of an advertisement in the THN does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by BCHW of goods or services offered therein. Prices subject to change without warning. BCHW, WMS and its management shall not be held responsible for any typing errors or omissions other than a correction in the next available issue. The THN shall not be reproduced in any form or manner without prior written agreement. This includes reproduction of articles, photos, and the BCHW logo.

*As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Back Country Horsemen of Washington has enacted the following policy: Back Country Horsemen of Washington does not endorse or oppose any political candidate, donate or contribute to any political candidate's campaign, participate or engage in political fund-raising events, distribute statements for or against particular political candidates, nor engage in any other activity that may constitute favoring or opposing a political candidate. The foregoing applies to the official position of BCHW it does not restrict or discourage individual members from representing themselves in support of a candidate.*

The Trailhead News is the official publication of Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW). The Trailhead News is published bimonthly by Back Country Horsemen of Washington, PO Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132. Annual membership dues include a subscription to The Trailhead News.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Trailhead News, PO Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132. © 2010 Back Country Horsemen of Washington.

Editorial: Maximum word count for articles is 700 plus two (2) photos as space is limited. Photos must be accompanied by the location, name(s) of person(s) in photo and the name of the photographer.

Please submit to: [bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com) or mail to: PO Box 7184 • Olympia, WA 98507 • 360.754.4543

Article, Photo & Ad Deadline Dates	Publish Date of Newsletter
December 1 .....	Jan/Feb
January 18 .....	Mar/April
April 1 .....	May/June
June 1 .....	July/Aug
August 1 .....	Sept/Oct
October 1 .....	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543



## BCHW Chapter Locations & Directors

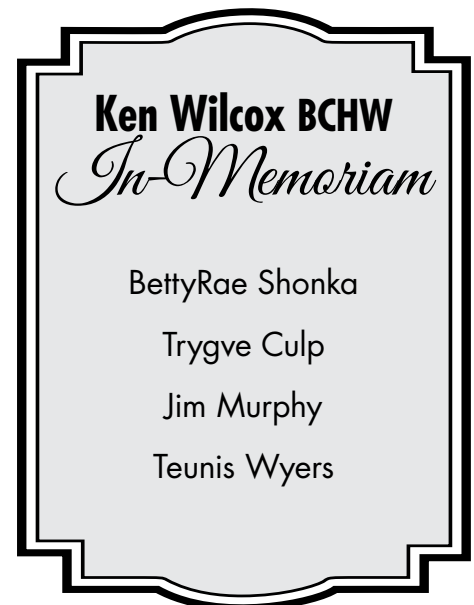
BUCKHORN RANGE: Director: Jeff Chapman	P.O. Box 845 • Chimacum, WA 98325	360-385-6364	bbbranch@olympus.net
CAPITOL RIDERS: Director: April Bryan	10214 Gate Rd SW • Olympia WA 98512	360-459-8261	timbryan1205@gmail.com
CASCADE HORSE CLUB: Director: Scott Lee	P.O. Box 1359 • Lake Stevens WA 98258	360-481-3066	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: Jeff Doane	P.O. Box 2651 • Port Angeles, WA 98362	360-460-5513	Jeff@jeffdoane.com
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	degbchwp2016@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	tlecher9@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](http://bchw.org).

## 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](mailto:membership@bchw.org).**

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



### 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](mailto:tstrk21@msn.com).

## Tax Deduction

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

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



## Making Your Mark on History

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

**W**ith everything that is going on around the world, now is the time to make your mark on history. Think about it. There is no better time in recent history that a person or an organization has ever had to make history. Take for instance my presidency. In the history of BCHW, I doubt an elected president has ever missed three board meetings in their first year, let alone had to cancel the meetings or events. I am sure in our state history a few fundraisers have fallen short of our expectations, but I doubt a year's worth of planning these fundraisers was canceled altogether.

See, we are making history. Why is this a significant point to make? Well, it's always kind of fun to break a record or to feel like you might have done something that made history. You get to own that, it's yours. It's your accomplishment. As equine trail riders and trail workers, we do crazy things like tracking our trail miles, we count the number of logs we remove from a

trail and the size of the logs. Now, because the west was tamed by folks who rode horses and mules, it would be hard to say we made history or did we? Even given all the COVID-19 safety protocols that we have had to mitigate, which called for much smaller groups of volunteers, we still accomplished a lot of valuable trail work across Washington.

Let's look at our fundraising. It started with our March 2020 Rendezvous. The first is always the hardest to make the decision to cancel. Almost immediately our hard-working state committees went to work utilizing our new website, [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org), to develop an online auction in an effort to help recoup lost funding for BCHW that would have been raised at the live Rendezvous auction and silent-bidding event. Then we turned to the BCHW Wine Ride, our other large fundraiser. Did we have to cancel it? No! Again our hard-working committees

*continued on page 4*

**Our newsletter (Trailhead News) will be electronic to all members in 2021, with the exception of the May-June and Sept-Oct issues, which will be printed and mailed out to all memberships. This is due to the unforeseen reduction in revenue in 2020.**

**Starting in January 2021, please go to [bchw.org](http://bchw.org), Trailhead News, to view your publications.**

**This decision was not made lightly and we are sorry for any inconvenience it may cause.**

**As always, please continue to send all articles and/or event announcements to: [bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com).**

### 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.





## Making Your Mark on Histroy

*continued from page 3*

developed a plan that includes a virtual Wine Ride that comes complete with online wine sales and an online costume contest. Details are posted on the BCHW website.

These are two examples of history-making events for BCHW. These are the two easy ones to pick on, but I would like to think, in some small way, BCHW is making history every day. What do you want our history to look like when this 2020-21 motion picture is released?

I was reading a Facebook post the other day and someone was recommending the Black Pine Horse Camp as a destination riding place. I smiled, knowing all the hard work and sweat equity BCHW put into both the campground and area trails even during a COVID-19 year. I like to think we own a little piece of this history. These activities that embrace our mission statement are not rare or stand-alone. BCHW has a long history of providing both clear trails and keeping equine camping areas accessible across Washington.

I like to think, given the COVID-19 virus, we all need to step back and manage our expectations for the near future. Sure, our fundraising efforts might not have been everything we had hoped for, we might not have cleared as many trails as we would have liked, but we still have been given every opportunity to set a new direction and make our mark on history. It might be a new Zoom meeting or finding other creative ways to conduct chapter meetings or it might be finding a new look at an old idea in regards to chapter rides or work parties. It could be that you are committed to breaking history with a membership drive.

I challenge you to help us make a mark on history by raising our BCHW membership. I received a call just this morning from a long-time member indicating the great news about his ability to use his cell phone to electronically re-join BCHW in under 5 minutes without any technical glitches. This, in itself, might have made history.

My goals for my presidency as I near my first year is to continue to support the many BCHW committees and chapters as they make their mark on history. What are your plans for making history as we move forward? 🐾

## BCHW Membership Announcement

**B**CHW Memberships Expired on Dec. 31, 2020. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952, I'm here for you!!

### PRICING FOR OUR 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



*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

# BCHW Bylaw Revisions

By Ken Carmichael, Governance & Bylaws Committee Chair

**B**CHW is in the process of revising the BCHW bylaws. It is important that the organization follows the bylaws and that the bylaws reflect the needs of the organization.

Part of the process to revise bylaws is to notify the general membership and BCHW Directors of the changes through the Trailhead News. The BCHW Directors have seen the changes in writing and discussed them in an informal electronic meeting. There are several minor changes and some significant changes throughout the bylaws. Since it is not practical to print the 8-page document in the THN, we are taking the following approach.

All the BCHW Directors, and some chapter officers, have access to the bylaws on the BCHW website. Those interested in seeing the entire document may contact their Director and he/she can provide the document.

The following is a summary of the changes:

- **Voting clarification** – The bylaws are inconsistent on what constitutes a majority. The bylaws are changed to state that to pass a motion requires a majority vote (sometimes two thirds) of the members present and voting. It is suggested that chapters have the same policy.
- **Lifetime memberships** - A Standing Rule is being developed with the provision that a Lifetime Membership in BCHW may be purchased for an individual and family. Currently, Lifetime Memberships are only available to individuals.
- **Youth group memberships** – The guidelines for youth group memberships are being removed from the bylaws and put in a standing rule.
- **Chapter formation** – The guidelines for forming a new chapter are being removed from the bylaws as they are duplicated in a standing rule.
- **Chapter solvency** – A provision is included that provides that if a chapter is approaching insolvency then BCHW must be notified and that the BCHW Treasurer may assume control of the chapter bank accounts, or take other actions to ensure that BCHW assets are not impacted.
- **Independent Contractor** – This paragraph provides for hiring an Executive Director. The change provides for hiring a wider range of talent as Independent Contractors to perform management and technical functions that benefit BCHW.
- **BCHW board meeting quorum** – The current bylaws says, “The voting Board members present shall constitute a quorum.” This is changed to “Twenty percent of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.”
- **Electronic BCHW Board meetings** – The current pandemic, and our inability to conduct in-person BCHW board meetings, has highlighted the need for the ability to conduct official BCHW business electronically. This new paragraph provides for electronic meetings in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.
- **Bylaw changes in the THN** – Currently, notice to the membership must be made 60 days prior to the meeting where bylaw changes are approved. This is being changed to 30 days. Under the current rule because of the frequency of THN publication and Board meetings it can take six months to approve bylaw changes.

Again, if you have questions concerning any of these changes to the bylaws, please contact your BCHW Director or me. 🐾

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



# This Year More Than Ever, Our Members Deserve Our Recognition!

By Mary Jo Krutak, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Once again undaunted members of BCHW work hard, becoming even more creative this year to continue to support our mission statement. (i.e. virtual meetings, events & auctions, smaller work parties, etc.) Act now, start putting together a nomination and you will be “virtually” recognizing these great members. February is not far away, nominations must be received before Feb 8th, 2021, and may be from either a chapter or a BCHW member.

Award categories are only given out once to a volunteer, please look up nominee to ensure they have not received an award for the same category you are considering. Award categories and descriptions are below and can also be found on [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org), as well as the list of past recipients and the nomination form.

Would you, your chapter, or local business like to sponsor a specific award? Donations are greatly appreciated this year more than ever. (Don't forget about the tax advantage.) Please reach out to me directly for more information.

## BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

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

Lifetime = 1, max 2 awarded

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

Lopper = 3, max 4 awarded

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

Camp Cook = 1 awarded

**TRAIL WARRIOR** This person may not make all the chapter functions or even own a computer, but they are out rain or shine, day in and day out, working on the trails.

Trail Warrior = 3, max 4 awarded

**DESK JOCKEY** This person is one of the behind the scenes people, always at a computer or running from meeting to meeting. They keep the wheels of our organization turning.

Desk Jockey = 2, max 3 awarded

**JUNIOR BCHW** Our future! Who stands out in your chapter? This person would participate in chapter events such as work parties, fundraisers, LNT/education, training, or BCHW promotion such as parades.

Junior BCH = 1, max 2 awarded

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

Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

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

Cinch Award = 1, max 2 awarded

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

President's Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded 🐾

Mary Jo Krutak Contact Info: [mjkrutak@outlook.com](mailto:mjkrutak@outlook.com) 425-301-2907



# Back Country Horsemen of Washington Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

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

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep in mind, the nomination committee will review your presentation.  
They may not know the nominee personally.

## Information to include in your nomination presentation:

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

***The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient at the awards ceremony.***

Mail nomination forms with your presentation via the US Post Office to:  
Mary Jo Krutak • 7904 224th St. SE, Woodinville, WA 98072  
Questions: Mjkrutak@outlook.com or 425-301-2907

**Must be received before Feb. 8, 2021. Awards will be presented at the  
BCHW General Meeting in March.**

# BCHW Membership Development for 2021

By Ken Carmichael, Membership Development Committee Chair

**M**embership Development, what is this and how does it differ from Membership Processing? Membership processing involves taking the membership application, making deposits, and putting the member on a list. Membership Development is to identify and document the benefits of BCH membership and develop marketing materials and methods to attract and retain members by using chapter resources and talent.

In 2018 the Membership Development Committee was formed. A manual was prepared and seminars were held across the state. In addition, classes have been presented at Leadership Training.

To accomplish the above goal, 5 objectives have been developed. They are:


- Develop leadership in the chapters and BCHW
- Elevate public awareness of BCHW and its mission
- Increase prospective member first visit traffic
- Enhance retention, through both second visit and annual renewal
- Augment attendance at chapter events

We recognize that to have a strong and healthy BCHW we must have strong chapters and increase BCHW membership. We must also have active members. Developing a strong membership first requires leadership and public awareness. Therefore, they are addressed first.

When I started to write this article I intended to write about

one objective per issue of THN. I found that there is just too much material to cover in the newsletter, even breaking it into five parts. Instead, I am encouraging members to refer to the Membership Development Manual found in the Director section of the BCHW website under Chapter Guideline (number 4). Also, those chapters that attended the seminars, or the Leadership Training have hard copies of the manual. If a chapter, or group of chapters, would like a repeat of the seminar, this can be done. The interaction of ideas and enthusiasm is always good. We encourage chapters to add your ideas to those in the manual and set chapter membership goals.

This type of information needs constant review to stay fresh in our minds. In addition, we have many new leaders since 2018. This is the BCHW membership renewal season, which is critical, but we should remember that Membership Development is a year-round activity. A chapter member should be appointed to take the lead on developing and managing the Chapter Membership Development program. It does not need to be the person responsible for processing applications.

Throughout this program, we emphasize the importance of our message resonating with our audience and aligning with their goals and priorities. Our message must be vibrant, moving, and current to excite our audience about BCH. BCH members must be knowledgeable and show enthusiasm when talking about BCH. 

Let's Increase and Enhance the BCH  
Membership Together

**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](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com)**

Ad Deadline Dates and Payment Due (or first business day after this date)	Publish Date of Newsletter	Ad Size	Ad Dimensions	Ad Cost 1x Insertion
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
		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

*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.*

**\$225.00 per issue & per spot color ad**  
**\$600.00 per issue for full color ads**

**Make payment payable to:**  
Back Country Horsemen of Washington

**Send check along with ad to:**  
BCHW The Trailhead News  
Washington Media Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 7184, Olympia, WA 98507

**Any advertising questions please contact:**  
Adriane Goodwin  
**360.754.4543** • Fax 360.943.7086  
[bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com) • visit: [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org)

**Conditions:** Washington Media Services, Inc. and the Back Country Horsemen of Washington The Trailhead News magazine assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors or omissions. The advertiser assumes liability for the content of the advertisement and any claims that may arise there from against the publisher.

# The Importance of Reliable Communications

By Robert Eversole, Trailmeister

Communicating with the folks back home while you're camping seems like the last thing that you would want to do. After all, we've left technology behind to embrace the wilderness. There's no better feeling than being "off the grid," disconnected from the outside world. However, there are exceptions to this; you may have health problems, family who needs checking on, or you may need up-to-date information for the trip home.



"While in the Pasayten Wilderness, along the Canadian border where cell coverage is just a dream, we noticed a thick smoke plume, and haze started filling the basin we were camped in. The plume was to the southeast, which was also the direction of our only route back to civilization. If the road was closed, our weeklong trip might turn into something much longer. We needed wildfire info ASAP in order to make an informed decision on the safest option."

**Information Is Power** - In these circumstances, having access to reliable communications while camping in remote locations is not only a good idea but a necessity.

"I sent a message to our emergency contact at home to see if they could find any wildfire info. Within minutes we had a situation report on the fire and where it was heading (across the only road into the trailhead). With that info, we were able to make a plan – break camp at first light and head for the trailhead and immediately depart for home. After receiving the fire info, I was able to share that data with some hikers camped nearby so that they could make informed decisions for themselves."

Backcountry communicators are, at their best, lifesaving devices that allow you to check-in with friends and family back home and reach emergency services in a pinch, even when you're far off the grid. Here's a breakdown of the devices we've used with success.

"By the time we made it to the trailhead the next afternoon, the smoke was getting thicker. A quick set of messages on the SatPaq let us know that the road out was still clear but the wind forecast had the fire line heading across it. We needed to leave ASAP. And we did!"

## SatPaq – So good that the US military is using them.

The SatPaq has become my go-to communicator because of its small size, light weight, and its ability to point to a specific satellite. It's never failed me and messages are sent and received fast.

The SatPaq from Higher Ground is a lightweight device that easily clips to your smartphone and connects wirelessly using Bluetooth to communicate through satellites when there is no cell coverage. SatPaq's SpaceLink app is free and allows you to send and receive messages, get instant weather forecasts, share your location, and get help in emergencies – all without having to pay monthly service fees.

"By the time we got to the bottom of the mountain and back onto paved roads, the impact of the fire was clear. The mountainsides that were green on the way in a few days before were blackened and still smoking."



## Garmin inReach – Reliably rugged GPS tracking and much more.

The best thing about InReach is that it's built to take abuse. Add that to the easy to use operating system and you've got a reliable tool that doesn't require a smartphone to operate.

Although a smartphone isn't required, you can still pair the device to your phone for a much larger and easier to use screen with the free Earthmate app.

Being essentially a GPS unit that does more, you can use the inReach to track your ride and record all of the statistics that we love such as altitude, average speed, and other similar data.

"The fire line was a half-mile away from a critical intersection that we turned at. And the surrounding area was crisscrossed with red streaks from aerial fire retardant drops."



## Spot X – Self-contained communications.

Similar to the inReach, the Spot X is its own self-contained unit, not needing to piggyback off phones via Bluetooth. It will track your route, send your location, and text updates. The Spot X also features a full keyboard and a cursor button for navigating the

*continued on page 10*



# LaPush Beach Trail 2 Bridge Removal and Replacement

Collaborative Effort with Olympic National Park, The Quileute Nation and Mt Olympus Chapter BCHWA Volunteers



*Mt Olympus chapter members and tribal council members.*



*Leveling the bridge.*

By Sherry Baysinger, Mt Olympus BCHW Chapter

When Larry Lack, Olympic National Park Trail Maintenance Supervisor, asked Larry Baysinger, Mt. Olympus Chapter Trail Boss, if he would be interested in a bridge removal and replacement on the LaPush Beach Trail 2, there was an immediate “YES!”

Although this trail is not a stock trail, it is a favorite of ours and many west-enders. Larry already had a core group of six members who were approved by the ONP to work on trails with respect to Covid-19 rules, which state only five people can work

together on a trail crew. Our Chapter also had a Recreational Trail Project (RTP) BCHWA grant available to assist members with expenses and use of equipment.

The trail starts on Quileute Tribal land. The bridge, which crosses over Lonesome Creek, was in danger of failing but, since it is on tribal land, ONP cannot spend funds on it. So, the Quileute Tribal Council provided materials that included 40' long steel I-beams for the bridge stringers, the ONP provided the drawings

*continued on page 11*

## The Importance of Reliable Communications

*continued from page 9*

screen. No endless scrolling to find a letter on a display screen. A note of those buttons. Unless you have tiny fingers they may prove to be too small to type with gloves on and are hard to use in heavy rain, snow, or finger-freezing subzero winds.

“We were never in immediate danger but, had the wind shifted, it could have become interesting in short order. With the SatPaq we had access to the data that allowed us to make informed decisions.”

Staying in communication while visiting remote parts of the



world is never easy. There is seldom reliable cell phone coverage in the backcountry. But thankfully with these powerful and effective devices, those who routinely find themselves in distant corners of the globe and in need of communications have several very good tools at their disposal.

Tip: Be sure to educate all involved before your trip on what to expect when tracking your progress with these devices. “If they don’t know what to expect, they may alert rescue teams when they are not needed.”

As always, for more information on trail riding, camping with horses, and the largest guide to horse trails and camps in the world visit us at [www.TrailMeister.com](http://www.TrailMeister.com)

## LaPush Beach Trail 2 Bridge Removal and Replacement

*continued from page 10*

and oversight of the project, and Mt. Olympus Chapter members provided volunteers to remove the old bridge and replace it with materials that will last many years.

Our crew members Mike McCracken (Forks), Ray Sutherland (Joyce), and Greg Anderson and Rich James (Port Angeles), under Larry's direction, moved old and new bridge materials utilizing cables, pulleys, grip hoists, two tractors, dump trailers, and flatbeds.

Perhaps the most challenging accomplishment was moving the two 40' long steel I-beams from the parking area down the trail and placing them over the creek span. The project started on September 20. The old bridge was removed and one I-beam in place when the weather changed to high winds and downpouring rain so, on Friday, we had to cancel work.

The following Monday, we moved the second-stringer into place and began placing the pre-cut cedar rails and planks on the stringers. By Wednesday, the bridge was nailed and bolted together, approaches and re-vegging of the site was completed. Six days from start to finish and the bridgework was completed!

At noon Wednesday, Tribal Chairman Doug Woodward and the entire available Quileute Tribal Council came to see the bridge and thank us for our work. And we thanked them for providing the materials. Quileute tribal minister and Vietnam Veteran Tom Jackson gave us some history of his childhood days. He remembered when, as a young boy, he crossed the creek on a foot log. Having the opportunity to meet in person on the bridge with the Quileute Tribal Council and to express our mutual appreciation was a very satisfying experience for all of us.

We succeeded in accomplishing something more than the replacement of the LaPush Beach 2 bridge replacement project: The collaboration of three groups of people with different mission statements, working successfully together toward a common goal.

The following poem was sent to Larry Baysinger by his grandmother Rose Baysinger before he went to serve with the USMC in Vietnam. It is the catalyst for his love for building bridges.


### The Bridge Builder

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

Will Allen Dromgoole was a woman! She attended Clarks-ville Female Academy (TN) She then studied law with her father at a time when women could not be lawyers. She taught school for a year in Tennessee and later in Temple, Texas, where she founded the Waco Women's Press Club. She was one of the first women to serve as a Warrant Officer in the Naval Reserve. 



*Bridge before*

*Bridge after*



# Buckhorn Range Chapter at LeBar Horse Camp for National Public Lands Day



*From left to right: Nancy, Larry, Jeff (with back to camera), Kris, Pat. Juelie took the photo and Rick was off screen making delicious food. Zoe the weekend mascot is in the foreground wearing her hunter orange.*

By Juelie Dalzell, Buckhorn Range and Peninsula Chapters

National Public Land Day saw eight members of Buckhorn Range Chapter working hard to restore LeBar Horse Camp. This lovely camp had been closed all summer in part due to Covid-19 and in part due to USFS staff shortages. What interested our members was the fact we had to negotiate with the Forest Service for over six weeks just to be permitted to hold a work party in the campground with the work needing approval before we entered. LeBar Horse Camp was built by Mason County (now Oakland Bay) and Olympic Chapters. Unwilling to give us a key, a Forest Service employee unlocked the gate for us the day we arrived.

The camp nestled between huge trees is extremely well designed with mostly pull through sites, cable high lines, picnic tables and fire rings. There is also a large picnic shelter at one end of the campground. With no use over the summer the camp looked very forlorn and overgrown. Small trees and shrubs had to be cleared from the camp road loop. Tent pads had to be replaced, brush and weeds cut off the hitch rails and sites parking areas, picnic tables wire brushed, the toilet sanitized and moss scraped off the concrete pad holding the vault toilet. A sign post had to be replaced, and fallen trees cleared from connector trails. Every fire ring was cleared of debris and creeper vines snipped away from camp sites and the road. In addition, our crew cleared downed trees blocking the LeBar access and 140 access to the Skok River Trail.

While the work required the eight of us to spend three days at LeBar, we all had a marvelous time together. Two of our members prepared meals for all of us making it a festive occasion and those of us not cooking felt coddled.

When we left, the camp looked ready for campers, but alas it will not open until next year. For those of you who have never been to LeBar, Buckhorn members would strongly suggest you do yourselves a favor and stay at this premier horse camp next summer. 🐾





# Riding Escure Ranch

PHOTO BY PATTY CARMICHAEL



*Rock Creek at Escure Ranch.*

PHOTO BY DICK YARBORO



*Marty Hilton Towell Falls trail at Escure Ranch.*

Marty Hilton, Northeast Chapter, BCHW

Last month several BCHW members from 2 different Spokane area chapters and some riding buddies met at Escure Ranch for four days of horseback riding and camping. Driving in from the Tri-Cities, Spokane, and parts north, we arrived at Escure Ranch early on a Thursday afternoon. Though the riding is great, the fascinating landscape where the ranch exists has millions of years of history behind it.

There were layers upon layers of basalt deposited in Eastern Washington and Oregon, starting about 17 million years ago, with fluid lava flowing northwards, starting and stopping hundreds of times. It filled valleys and transformed a rolling landscape into a perfectly flat plateau. Then, about 2 million years ago, the climate cooled and glaciers formed: when ice dams broke, waters flooded the lands, known as the “Missoula Floods.” The last giant flood through the Escure Ranch area was about 13,000 years ago.

Channels that formed in the Escure area are part of a swath 90 miles long and 20 miles wide. Rock Creek, which traverses the Ranch, and its steep cliffs were formed as the waters eroded their way through the basalt rock, leaving behind deep round lakes, scour holes, coulees, and irregular buttes which make up the fantastic landscape you see today.

The Ranch itself originally started in the early 1900s when a prominent rancher in Whitman County developed a huge sheep

operation, sprawling across thousands of acres of this prehistoric grassland. Today, Escure Ranch covers about 20 square miles. The ranch house and a collection of ranch buildings from the old homestead days are maintained and protected by the Bureau of Land Management.

As you drop down the one-way track to the ranch area, a large and usable parking area allows for campers and horses alike: with 2 corrals and highlines and plenty of room to set up portable corrals. When we visited, the high line area was in serious need of weed control and largely inaccessible. Water from Rock Creek is piped into a freshening water trough for stock and provided plenty of drinking water for our horses, but it’s always best to be prepared with stock water and of course plenty of horse feed for your animals. While there is no drinking water for people, a porta potty is close in camp and there are 5 or 6 parking areas with picnic tables and fire rings. Pets are allowed.

While rattlesnakes can be an issue in the hot months, none of our party (13 of us) saw any on our rides in early October. Days were warm and there’s very little shade so you may want to bring your own! In the springtime, the flowers would definitely be

*continued on page 14*

PHOTO BY PATTY CARMICHAEL



*Escure Ranch camping area and abandoned ranch buildings*

PHOTO BY PATTY CARMICHAEL



*Ken Carmichael on Silver, at Escure Ranch*

# BCHW Virtual Winery Ride

PHOTO BY JIM THODE



*Pictured left to right: Witch- Pam Lincoln, Trail worker - Jason Ridlon, Red Riding Hood - Diane Knutz, Bling construction - Terri Edwards, Standing - Llorene Bezanson, Outlaw - Heather Moorman, Zoro - Dawn Kammenzind, Outlaw #2 - Tony Longoria, Outlaw #3 - Kailun Calhoun. Not pictured - Jim and Nancy Thode and Barbara Thomas*

By Barbara Thomas, BCHW Mt. St. Helens Chapter

**T**welve BCHW members, mainly from the Purple Sage Riders, gathered in their costumes for the production of the BCHW Virtual Winery Ride.

Jim Thode and his wife Nancy supplied the filming equipment and extra masks required when inside each of the wineries. Llorene Bezanson, who is the winery liaison, helped keep things moving forward ahead of riders to get the winery staff prepped and in costume for the riders' arrival.

The riders were in costume as Little Red Riding Hood, El Zorro, Caution Queen, a witch, the Lone Ranger, and outlaw bandits. Jason Ridlon was dressed as a trail crew worker (go figure) with two mules. One mule tooted boxes of wine as contraband while Jason filmed the trail ride with his GoPro camera.

The crew rode to 4 different wineries, and small groups were filmed taste-testing some of the samples. Tony Longoria was

roped into his first starring role as BCHW spokesperson talking to the public about this event and what it means to BCHW and the local wineries in Zillah, Washington.

The wineries that we visited are excited that we did not forget them this year and have offered some special prices on the wines that were popular last year. Combine that with the free delivery by BCHW volunteers and the 10% that the wineries are donating from the sales, and this first-time ever virtual event is looking promising.

A special shout out to Heather Moorman who organized the riders and to Nikki Samaniego from Severino Cellars who spoke to the camera and gave the wineries' perspective of this year's event.

To all of you who have participated in this ride or volunteered in the past, we thank you and hope that you will try to support us this year 🐾

## Riding Escure Ranch

*continued from page 13*

photo-worthy and the star gazing is exceptional at any time of year, due to the wide-open areas away from civilization. There are many miles of trails leading to waterfalls, hidden lakes, basalt cliffs, and beautiful canyons, interspersed among huge grassland tracts. The main loop trail is about 12 miles, but a nice ride to Towell Falls is only 3 miles from camp. The open scenic terrain lends itself well to cross-country exploring, but the main trail is well marked and maintained thanks to the Ponderosa Chapter of BCHW. We saw cyclists, hikers, hunters,

and fishermen enjoying the area and sharing the camping area with us horsemen. Although we saw some fishermen enjoying casting along Rock Creek, for the most part, we had the trails to ourselves.

Escure is relatively close to Spokane and easily accessible from I-90 (about 20+ miles south of the town of Sprague), but the last 12 miles of gravel road make it slow going. Make no mistake: it's a remote area, but the horse riding is well worth the drive and not to be missed! 🐾



# An Epic Women's Trip To National Parks



PHOTO BY HEIDI STAHELI

*On the way up to Lionhead Mountain, Mary Jo, Brandi, Kathy, Sue and Bruce Boblet*



PHOTO BY HEIDI STAHELI

*Ride from Diamond P to the Continental Divide Look-out with Montana on one side and Idaho on the other*

By Heidi Staheli

This article is a three-part story and will be continued in the next edition of The Trailhead News.

"You should come with us" is the text message I received as my boyfriend, Jeff, and I were heading out of cell phone range on our last long horse camping trip of the summer. It was the beginning of September and Jeff was going back to work the following Monday after both of us were laid off back in March due to Covid. My BCH Tahoma friends were trying to get me to join them on a three-week road trip with our horses. "Ha-ha," I replied, mentioning that I would be out of cell range soon. Putting the phone down I told Jeff about the invitation. "You know," he said, "there's no reason you can't go." I thought for a moment, agreed, and sent out one last text, "I'll get back to you on Monday". I was borrowing a horse from a friend, I

PHOTO BY HEIDI STAHELI



*On the way up to Lionhead Mountain*

needed to get all his health papers, and, oh, I should check in with work, too, as I was on call. They were leaving in a week and, due to some cancellations, they had room for me to join them.

Monday brought with it a flurry of phone calls. My boss gave me the permission to be gone for the month, I was given the okay to take the borrowed horse on the journey and my vet squeezed in a last-minute appointment for travel documents. There would be five of us, a group of independent, strong horsewomen on a road trip to Yellowstone and Teton National Parks. I left that Sunday and met up to caravan with the group, Mary Jo Krutak, Geri Jo Wolanski, Brandi Miller, and Kathy Young, all BCH Tahoma members, in Thorp, Washington, on Monday morning.

Our first riding destination was Yellowstone National Park, an approximately 750-mile drive. We broke up the drive into two segments, laying over at the 50,000 Silver Dollar Bar in Haugan, Montana. Corrals are provided free of charge and the restaurant and bar on the premises is a bonus. The next morning, we drove the balance of the way, with a gas stop involving a quick fix to an LQ refrigerator and one horse trailer experiencing a major blow-out (on a pass no less). A short delay to change the tire and a quick trip to a nearby town for a new tire and the caravan continued.

## Diamond P Ranch

Arriving at Diamond P Ranch late in the afternoon, we were greeted by several new friends, Kathy & Bob Cole and Bruce & Sue Boblet, BCH members from Washington, Richard & Tracy McIntyre, BCH members from Kansas, and ten of their closest friends. Kathy, Mary Jo, and Geri Jo first met this group at Monument Valley several years ago. One of the most rewarding things about doing these big trips is meeting fellow BCH members from across the country and making lifelong friends. Also greeting us,

*continued on page 16*



## An Epic Women's Trip To National Parks

*continued from page 15*

PHOTO BY BRUCE BOBLET



*Sue Boblet, Heidi, Brandi, Mary Jo, Kathy, Geri Jo at the top of Lionhead. Photo by Bruce Boblet*

but with a warning, was the owner of Diamond P Ranch, Rex Portman. There had been a couple of juvenile grizzly bears on his porch the night before and he wanted to make sure that we were extra cautious about handling our food, dog food, and any grain that had molasses in it. We then checked into our reserved RV spots with electric and water hookups, put the horses into their corrals, and sat down for a beer and some good catching up.

Diamond P Ranch (West Yellowstone, Montana) is located just seven miles outside of the park. We spent eight nights at Diamond P and did a combination of rides from the Ranch and in Yellowstone National Park by trailering into the park. Diamond P has trailers for rent for those who do not want to pack up their houses to haul horses into the park. We also spent a couple of days sightseeing without our horses so that we could see sections of the park that we could not ride to. A trip to Yellowstone would not be complete without seeing Old Faithful. We also went to the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone and even went to a small-town rodeo, which was only half a mile from camp.

Well, we were warned about bears, but sure enough, one of our neighbors left their panniers outside and two grizzlies came into camp and opened the panniers and ate the grain that was contained in them. They must have spent some time eating grain because there were piles of grizzly poop sprinkled with grain next to the trailers in the morning. The bears also packed away a camp stove, which was never found. A few days later the bears were trapped and relocated but this pair had become dependent upon human food and came back. Apparently, they entered an occupied tent so they were deemed dangerous to humans, trapped, and euthanized.

There is a variety of riding right from Diamond P Ranch. Several outfitters use the area so there is a large network of trails that can be ridden from camp. Using these trails, we connected with the Continental Divide, the drainage basin from which one side flows to the Pacific Ocean and the other to the Atlantic Ocean. We rode the Divide and took a side trip to a lookout point with a gorgeous 360-degree view where we could see Idaho on one side and Montana on the other. Further along, the Continental Divide Trail

PHOTO BY HEIDI STAHELI



*Coming down the other side of Lionhead stopping for water. Brandi, Kathy, Sue, Mary Jo, Geri Jo and Bruce*

led to Lionhead Mountain. It was a steep climb to 9,500 feet, but the trail was well maintained and the switchbacks wide and safe. The wildflowers were fully in bloom at the higher elevation and added color to our already fabulous mountain views. 🐾

PHOTO BY HEIDI STAHELI



*Inside Yellowstone National Park looking over Lamar Valley*

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN



*Bison walking through our lunch spot at Lake Mary in Yellowstone.*



# Mt. St. Helen's Chapter of BCHW Joined up for a Camp-out at Keenes Horse Camp August 17th

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS



*Did I mention the views?*

By Barbara Thomas, Mt. St. Helens Chapter

Several members of the Mt. St. Helen's chapter of BCHW joined up for a campout at Keenes Horse Camp August 17th – 23rd. Keenes is located on the north side of Mt. Adams and the closest town is Randle WA. You will want to choose the route through Randal instead of the road out of Trout Lake unless you are driving a 4x4 without any horses! Go to the Forest Service site to get directions, their way is going to save you a lot of potholes and jarring.

The horse camp is split into two sections, sites 1-8 and 9-13 which is only a short distance away from the other camp. There is a one room porta potty and stock water for each campground. For those of you who are into the huge living quarters, you might want to avoid arriving on the weekends because a lot of the sites are designed for smaller rigs. Sites 1 & 2 are your best bet, and one can accommodate several rigs and friends too.

Terri and Jim Anderson, Barbara Thomas, Judy Smith, Yonnie Nichols and Ruth Colonnello caravanned together on Monday. On Tuesday Vickie Smith arrived and on Wednesday we had a pleasant surprise when Lori Lennox pulled in along with Peter and Gudrun Marht. Some of us had never been to this camp and others hadn't been there for years.

Like Mt. Adams Horse Camp trails, Keenes can be a little (ok who am I kidding?) very dusty so smaller groups are ideal. In fact this is the perfect place to show you are being a star by wearing your mask while riding. The other users will think you are being so conscientious while secretly you will be happy not chewing and blowing dust out back at camp. For a little dust you get spectacular views of Mt. Adams, Goat Rocks, waterfalls and meadows filled with blooming flowers of several colors. The Killen Creek/Muddy Meadows trail is to die for.

You might want to avoid the trail beyond Horseshoe Lake which is really eroded leaving large rocks, roots and just all-around nasty stuff. It used to be a nice loop around Takhalak Lake but, looks like it got pretty neglected. In fact this is the trail where

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS



*Jim Anderson on Lucy.*

Jim thinks Lucy got dinged-up, hence the lame mule the next day.

Our group split up into 2-4 riders each day and rode a different trail or the same trail but at different times. One day Jim had to stay back in camp because Lucy came up lame on her front foot after the second ride. Is it a coincidence that this was the same foot that hit Jim in the head a few weeks ago? Well we will just leave it to your imagination but some do call Jim "hard headed". Other than that it was an event-free-camping trip. No escaped horses tearing down electric fencing because Peter highlines Silver now, and other than one possible "bee" shout everyone had a good time, lots of great pictures and a chance to enjoy what we love to do, ride and be with like-minded folks. 🐾

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS



*Can't forget the good food we all ate. Jim runs a pretty mean grilling machine.*



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

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OLYMPIA, WA  
PERMIT NO. 537

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.

• Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: [bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com).

### 1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2021  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495 • [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

### 2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, June 19, 2021  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495 • [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

### 3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting

Saturday, September 18, 2021  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495 • [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

**Our newsletter (Trailhead News) will be electronic to all members in 2021, with the exception of the May-June and Sept-Oct issues, which will be printed and mailed out to all memberships. This is due to the unforeseen reduction in revenue in 2020.**

**Starting in January 2021, please go to [bchw.org](http://bchw.org), Trailhead News, to view your publications.**

**This decision was not made lightly and we are sorry for any inconvenience it may cause.**

**As always, please continue to send all articles and/or event announcements to: [bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com).**

## Content Deadline for the January/February 2021 Newsletter is December 1st

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

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

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

**ATTENTION!**