

The Trailhead News

Vol. 48 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2023

1st Place at the 22nd Annual
BCHW Winery Ride



www.bchw.org



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Photo by: Jim Thode.

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

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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

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

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members					
Mitch Baird	IND	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Diane Jaspers	EVC
Scott Bauer	CHC	Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH	Hillary Jones & Jim Johnston	GHC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Greg Cox	GHC	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC
Penelope Booker	IND	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Laurie Kallsen-George	PNC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Lorraine Karmen	CHC
Caleb Canby	MVC	Robert Gish & Myrna McMain	NEC	Tony Karniss	LCC
Janis Collett	PCC	Kevin & Lisa Graese	NEC	Mary Krauss & Joe Berner	CHC
Missy Day	TAH	Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR	Melody & Randy Lee	MSH
David Jackson	PSR	Mary Kane	TAH	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BHR
Lori Lennox	GHC	Burton & Caitly Karapostoles	MVC	Ed & Teri Letcher	WEN
Kim Merrick	NSC	Bill Kehner	IND	Paul Mellick	RRR
Heather Moorman	PSR	Edris Kenan	TAH	Kris Moran	GHC
Jason Ridlon	IND	David & Hope Maltz	TAH	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Kathy Russo	IND	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Kathleen Parshall	TAH
Dave Seibel	MOC	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Bradley Peters	MVC
Bob Shonka	IND	Dale & Tina Merten	GHC	Tom Reed & Michelle Cottone	PCC
Teri Starke	IND	James Miller	IND	Laurel Saville	WCC
Cathy Upper	MVC	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC	Bennet Sizemore & Freya Sturm	MAC
Carol Wilcox	WVC	Gary & Janis Pegg	LCC	Jane Storrs	TAH
Barbara Woo	CHC	Drew & Rachel Scott	IND	Brian & Cindi Vance	NEC
Pat Wyers	MAC	Frank & Sandra Servine	NIS	Craig Volosing & Karen Stevenson	PON
2024 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Jan Whitlow	MOC	Lynda Stafford	SCR	Sonja Wingard & James Matthies	WCC
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Kinney/Churchill	TDC	Michael Torok	MVC	Doug Wood	SKT
2022 Benefactor Level					
Terry & Suzanne Smith	IND	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC
2023 Patron Level					
Connie & Gene Baugher	MAC	Louise & Peter Walton	NEC		
Christina Cline	MVC	Jan Whitlow	MOC		
Sherrie Elliott	NEC	JoAnn Yost	GHC		
Dawn Graham	MOC	Patricia Yust	WCC		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini	RRR	2023 Contributing Level			
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BHR	Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford	NSC	Bart & Velma Bradshaw	MVC		
Al & Marcy Norrbom	WEN	Gene Brent	TAH		
Bob Showalter	RRR	Heather & Fred Brown	TAH		
2023 Sustaining Level					
Robert & Sheila Blakely	NEC	Jack Carr	WCC		
Sherry & Alex Brown	LCC	Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		
Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Michelle & Randy Fetters	EVC		
		Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC		
		Rich & Louise Guthrie	TDC		
		Jonathan Hamlin & Adriana Scott	PNC		
		Kris & Don Hand	PSR		
		Dean & Susan Hartman	CPR		
		Butch & Jaima Havens	IND		
		Bruce & Gigi Heibert	TAH		
		Brian & Tammy Jansen	MSH		

Ken Wilcox BCHW

In Memoriam

BettyRae Shonka

Carol Wilcox

Doc Wesselius

Jim Murphy

Laarin Lee Barber

Marianne Finrow

Teunis Wyers

Trygve Culp

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.

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. ↪



By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

I say this every October, and you are probably tired of hearing it. Membership Renewal season has begun. Memberships are good for a calendar year, so December 31st is when memberships expire. We do not remove you from our mailing list until January 15th. So, our online membership form and chapter paper forms are available on the website, bchw.org, under the Member/Join/Renew tab.

This season is also a great time to gift a membership; fill out the form in their name, but you pay.

October has always been a busy month preparing for our 22nd Annual Winery Ride and all of the membership renewals.

By the time you get this edition, the Winery will be over, and I am sure it was another great event. I want to thank the

Chairs, Barb Thomas and Nancy Rust, and all the volunteers from all over the state. We cannot put these types of events on with all of you.

I want to ask that all of you consider getting involved in your chapters. It takes a village to run this organization and have it be successful; it starts with the members. These opportunities can be holding a chapter officer position to helping with work parties to maintain and keep our trails open to stock. Most chapters are holding elections, so please consider getting involved.

As we go into the holiday season, colder, wetter weather will be here, so please be safe, enjoy the downtime and start making plans for those work parties in 2024! 🐾

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter "BCHA") and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

Your Leadership Quote of the Month

“

Average leaders raise the bar on themselves; good leaders raise the bar for others; great leaders inspire others to raise their own bar.

~ Orrin Woodward

2023 BCHW Awards Program

Never too early to start the list

By Susan Sundahl, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

Start the process of gathering information for the nomination packet now. Nominations are due by February 1, 2024, and will be awarded at Rendezvous in March. There are so many deserving BCHW members that should receive one of these awards. If your chapter does not have a nominating committee for Awards, please put it on the agenda for your next meeting. I am more than happy to assist you with your nominations. In addition, BCHW appreciates donations from individuals and Chapters for these awards. For more information and to see past award winners, please visit the Awards page at bchw.org/programs/awards.

BCHW AWARDS CATEGORIES

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT This award is for the BCHW member or couple who has shown a lifetime of dedication to BCHW by actively pursuing and promoting the organization and the BCHW Mission Statement in various 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 BCHW by participating and promoting what the BCHW Mission Statement stands for. This is an “all-around” award, with the nominee being active in several 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 at meetings, work parties or social functions, they are in the kitchen ensuring 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 member is very 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 member or an UN-ELECTED state officer - they keep the wheels of this great organization running smoothly. They may or may not be very visible - they may be quietly working in the background, reliably doing their jobs. They may or may not be active, 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 by the BCHW Awards Program.

President’s Diamond Award = 1, max 2 awarded

SPONSORSHIPS Last year, eight different BCHW chapters and one business-sponsored BCHW awards. Thanks to Ponderosa, Pierce County, Capitol Riders, Scatter Creek, Methow Valley, Tahoma, Buckhorn Chapters and Harbor Saw for your sponsorships. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in thirteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. Please encourage you, your chapter or businesses to support the BCHW Award Program for one or more of the award categories. Also, remember that with our 501(c)3, there is a tax advantage for award donations. 🐾

2023 BCHW Award Nomination Form

(one form per nominee)

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

Nominees' Name _____

Chapter(s) _____

Submitted by _____

Chapter(s) _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Please clip out and mail



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 their 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, etc.).

The presentation you submit will be given to the recipient.

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

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

Must be received before February 8, 2024



Governance Bylaws

By Ken Carmichael

Recently, I participated in an IRS Audit of another 501C3 organization. The experience is enlightening. The audit addresses the financial and governing practices of the organization.

BCHW and chapters are a 501C3 nonprofit corporation. We are regulated by:

- Federal government
- State government
- County government

Needless to say, we must be familiar with and comply with many regulations. This process involves:

- Identifying regulations that affect BCHW
- Reading and understanding these regulations
- Summarizing the effect on BCHW
- Preparing and passing BCHW policies to document and communicate compliance
- Educating BCHW members and leaders on the procedures that must be followed
- Ensuring compliance with the policies

If you enjoy reading and understanding regulations, I have an opportunity for you. We need to divide the above work among more people. This can be done by having several people handling different regulations so that no one person is responsible for all regulations. We develop expertise in specific areas.

For BCHW to maintain trails effectively, we must remain a viable organization. This includes following all regulations.

If you are interested in supporting BCHW in this manner, contact me at 509-466-2225 or kcarmichael2225@gmail.com. No chainsaw certification or shovel work is required. 🌱

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



Rendezvous 2024 – Update and Call for Volunteers

By Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer

Rendezvous 2024 is just around the corner, and we have very little scheduled as I sit here writing this article on September 29th. Of course, Missy Day and her crew are taking care of the various auctions, Linda Riley and her crew are taking care of the Used-Tack Sale, Dana has her crew taking care of on-site registration, and Harold Weiss is taking on the packing competition in the Bloom. The construction last year gave us a new space on the side of the Bloom to do more packing-type clinics with horses that will be under cover. We will not be renting awnings for 2024 (at least, we think no awnings). I have had several conversations with Darrell Wallace about the difference between recreational and support packing and what they mean. We need to explore all aspects of packing and working on trails in the back, middle and front country.

We need you and your chapter's help to sponsor and schedule classes. I need someone(s) to help me with the scheduling to reach out to people and ask them what class they would like to teach and/or present. I have an idea to do a truck-trailer (TT) rodeo out by the Western Village. There is so much room now, and the TT rodeo would fit perfectly. I need someone to take the TT rodeo on and run with it.

I am also looking for vendors. We need a vendor who sells pack equipment to rent a booth. The Umptaneum is not quite full; I want to fill the Umptaneum and the Manashtash. If you know of a vendor who would be a good fit for Rendezvous, please ask them to check out the Rendezvous page on the BCHW website to register or call me.

Get a hold of me to attend our monthly Zoom meetings. --Teri Starke, treasurer@bchw.org, 253-709-5052 🌱

In Memoriam

David K. Clark passed away on Sunday, November 12 in a fatal car accident between Benton City and the Tri-Cities on Interstate 82. David Clark was a member of the Purple Sage Riders. He will be remembered by our chapter as a father, hard-working volunteer and lover of packing in on his horses and mules to the back country to camp.



Trail Etiquette Is A Safety Topic

From Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) Safety Officer

By Chuck Regimbal, BCHW Safety Officer

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

When riding alone, you do not have an immediate influence over anyone else or their horses. But you are still training your horse for certain habits that will affect others in a group.

When you are in a group and going single file down a trail, you have an influence over others and their horses.

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

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

Here are a few suggestions

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

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

If a person is having trouble with a fidgety horse, stop the line in a safe place and let them settle their horse down to figure out the problem. Do not just continue on.

Do not let your horse get in the habit of running up the hill. It is OK to do that when you permit it. But in line, a horse that habitually runs up a hill without the rider's consent will cause problems for others restraining their own horse.

Eventually, somewhere along the trail, riders will want to pass other riders. That is OK, but do it with the slower rider's consent and in a safe place. The lead horse person should track all horses in the line.

If you are organizing a ride, question the participants and try to group faster horses together and slower horses in a separate group. And wear a helmet! Hopefully helpful. 🐾

Congratulations

By Ken Carmichael

Congratulations to the Following Chapters:

Crab Creek
Ellensburg
Pierce County

They are the winners of a free table at the 2024 rendezvous banquet and get to “move up in the buffet line at the banquet.”

They won this honor by participating in the contest between chapters using the BCHW website to find answers to a series of questions. The questions were not easy and took some research. They covered a broad range of topics. Answers were available in the general public area of the website, behind the membership-only tab and three questions were required using the Director page.

The contest was an effort to encourage members, officers and committee chairs to learn more about the tools available to manage BCHW and the chapters. The website is just one of these tools.

Others Include:

- Leadership training (2024 will be Zoom in January)
- Treasurer Zoom meetings
- Director meetings
- Access to BCHW committee chairs
- Rendezvous seminars
- Participation at many levels of BCHW

BCH is organized to educate, advocate and do the physical work to keep trails and trailheads open to equestrians. The most effective way to do this is not as individuals but as a well-respected organization. BCHW IRS status as a 501C3 organization provides this status. However, maintaining this status takes a great deal of work behind the scenes. Your help and support are greatly appreciated.

Take this time as we elect new officers and plan for a new year to contact a chapter or BCHW president or committee chair and see how your talents, interests, skills and abilities can help BCHW accomplish its mission. It is fun and rewarding. 🐾

Bennett Legacy at Richland Horse Park Will Live On



PHOTOS BY LORENE BEZANSON

George Hagan, Cindy Faith, Dawn Kammenzind, Karla Allen, Bill Bennett, Mary Bennett with wooden PSR sign at RHP

Rock Monument sign at RHP.

Some obstacles at RHP.

By Tawney Carrier, President, Purple Sage Riders

PHOTO BY LLORENE BEZANSON

Bill and Mary Bennett, members of the Purple Sage Riders, championed reviving the Richland Horse Park. Unfortunately, they are moving back home to California, where they were born and lived for over 50 years. They leave behind many good friends and a significant contribution to the equestrian community: Richland Horse Park (RHP).

The Bennetts spearheaded the effort to restore the Richland Horse Park to be usable. The Horse Park at W.E. Johnson has a long history, formerly a trash dump, then an equestrian facility, and then left alone for years.

The Bennett's efforts started in 2018 when they learned the City of Richland wanted to abandon the equestrian use and install soccer fields at the former landfill. This turned into a labor of love to improve the usability of the space and increase the visibility of the equestrian usage in our community. It has been a great success.

In 2019, they created a Park Partnership with the City of Richland to clean the park up. Several improvements were made, including an entryway, trailhead, day-use corrals, and more. The Bennetts lead the charge for more improvements in 2020. Those accomplishments included hazard clean-up, relocated and improved trailhead, day-use corrals, a rest area for horses and riders, adding trees/native plants, a pet waste station, trail maintenance and signage.

But their efforts continued. In 2021, a parking/staging area specifically for horse trailers was installed. Picnic tables and day pen (corral) improvements were made. Additional signage, noxious weed control, trail maintenance, and landscaping with additional native plants were all completed.



Bill and Mary Bennett at Howard Amon Park.

In 2022, the Richland Horse Park officially became a Certified Heritage Garden thanks to the Bennetts' efforts. The garden is designed to help visitors identify native plants by installing signs near large groupings. The Richland Horse Park is one of only four publicly accessible gardens in Benton County.

Ultimately, the contributions of the Bennetts benefitted the Richland Horse Park in so many ways quantifying it is impossible. The significance of their time and effort is immeasurable. They did all the things you do for a project you want to

be its very best. And that is what Richland got - the VERY BEST horse park. Sometimes, those first steps are the hardest, which is what the Bennetts did for Richland Horse Park. They paved the way for the park to continue to grow and prosper. With their efforts, the Richland Horse Park is the gem it is today.

Purple Sage Riders will miss the hard work, dedication and happy spirit the Bennetts bring to everything they do. Our large equestrian community will miss their dogged pursuit of a great equestrian park. We wish the Bennetts the best for their new adventure on behalf of all the Purple Sage Riders, the equestrians and others who use, enjoy and love the Richland Horse Park. 🐾

The Richland Horse Park is located in W.E. Johnson Park in Richland, WA, near the Richland Riders Club and Tri-city Equestrian Center at the corner of Chester and Hall Roads. The park was named after Wilfred E. Johnson in 1977. Johnson served as the General Manager of the Hanford Atomic Product Operation and as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission at a national level. He also was a member of the Richland City Council. Johnson had a lifelong love affair with horses, learning to ride as a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) at Oregon State College.



2023 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest

Another BCHW Winery Ride is over, and once again, it was an amazing event. The costumes participants created were amazing, the best we have seen in the last five years. It was so competitive and fun to watch. 2023 BCHW Winery Ride Photo Gallery by bchw at pbase.com to see the costumes and winners!!

We lucked out that there was no rain or snow. However, the temperatures went south, and it was cold! Despite this and several participants and volunteers canceling due to the weather, we got the base camp and off-site camp put together. We just had to work harder and faster with the volunteers we had. Except for a few lame horses and a few equine escape artists, it was a pretty smooth-running event.

We had a chance to meet with most of the winery owners/managers on Wednesday to talk about the future of this event. It was heartwarming to hear from them that this one-day event accounts for more sales than the entire month of October. The wineries and landowners expressed how much they appreciated and supported BCHW. 🍷

Now for a little fun facts.
Bottles of wine sold: Over 1950
Riders: 484
Volunteers: 112

PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



Thank You to the Participating Wineries:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Bonair Winery & Vineyards | Dineen Vineyards |
| Hyatt Vineyards | Knight Hill Winery |
| Paradisos Del Sol Winery | Severino Cellars |
| Silver Lake Winery | Tanjuli Winery |
| Two Mountain Winery | Van Arnam Vineyards |
| Velen Winery | Whitman Hill |

Winery Ride Sponsor:





2023 BCHW Winery Ride and



PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



Halloween Costume Contest

PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

PHOTOS BY JUDY DUPREE

PHOTOS BY RICK KING



Riders signing up for Olympic Spirit Prize Ride.



Yevonne DeGrassi Craig enjoying the view from the top!

By Donna Hollatz, BCHW Peninsula Chapter

Peninsula Chapter of Back County Horsemen of Washington held its annual “Olympic Spirit Prize Ride” on Saturday, September 9, at Sage Horse Camp off Chicken Coop Road. This activity is the chapter’s primary fundraiser for the year. Funds are used for costs involved with doing trail work, providing youth and community education about equine pursuits, trail etiquette and conservation and for chapter business expenses.

Sequim and Port Angeles businesses providing sponsorships and prizes that totaled \$1,150 were First Federal Bank, Cole’s Jewelers, Sequim Co-Op Farm & Garden, Sound Equine, Mary Craft, Sound Community Bank and Brown’s Outdoor Store.

Sixty-four riders turned out with their horses to ride the trails. Most came from out of the area, with about 40 horse trailers camping Friday night and some Saturday. A barbecue rib dinner was served to 50 people, and over 60 prizes were available in exchange for raffle tickets.

The “ride” is about eight miles/three hours long and uses a maze of DNR Roads and trails south of Hwy 101. Chapter members built some new connecting trails this summer, so less time was spent riding on “roads,” and lovely new views were opened to riders. The weather was beautiful, and the skies were clear to take advantage of the fantastic 360-degree vistas.

Chapter members donated many hours the day of the ride and in the months prior, organizing and executing this activity. A Trail Team (Theresa Percy, Julie Dalzell, Anna Neal, Suzanne King, Judy Dupree and Sara Campbell) rode and flagged the trail in the days ahead before riders headed out Saturday morning. Sweep riders followed the group and removed flagging. The Prize Team (Judy Sarles, Linda Morin, Julie Kustura, Donna Hollatz and Nancy Scott) procured prizes and arranged the display. While Rick King managed the parking, the Registration Team (Stephanie

Burns and Sandy Ihly) organized the paperwork and helped riders sign up. A Snack Stop (Helen Shewman, Larry Sammons and Jeff Chapman) was set up mid-ride to provide refreshments and water for riders and their mounts while they enjoyed the views. The Dinner Team (Kim Merrick, Joan Wildman, Julie Kustura, Nicole Witham and Donna Hollatz) prepared and served dinner for 50 campers.

Many riders expressed their appreciation for the well-organized ride and are planning to return next September! In a follow-up survey, participants overwhelmingly gave “strongly agree” positive evaluations for all elements of the ride. 🌲

PHOTOS BY JUDY DUPREE



An unidentified group of riders heading toward the trail

BCH Northeast Chapter Washington



By Sheila Blakely, BCHW Northeast Chapter

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hosted the 2023 National Hunting and Fishing Day at Diamond Lake, Newport, WA, on September 30th. Steven Dazey of the Hunter Education Division and Coordinator of this event contacted us (N.E. BCH) in January 2023 to solicit our participation. Member Sheila Blakeley volunteered to organize our part of the event along with 19 club members.

Those who arrived early set up the coffee pot, a tent and the bonfire along with three hi-lines, a canopy over the coloring table, packing barrels and the equipment trailer displaying some of the tools used to clear trails.

Our goal was to set up an authentic-looking horse camp.

Randy Raymond brought his Walker, Denny; Sheila brought her Walker, Johnny; Marty Hilton brought her Walker, Jazz; and Traci Stewart brought her four Minis: Baron, Gabe, Wiz and Mr. T. The kids, as they approached our camp, would exclaim, "Oh look, baby horses!" They loved petting and brushing the horses, and the horses enjoyed the attention and were perfect props!

The kids could then go to the Coloring Table, where a picture with the body parts of a horse was labeled and available for coloring. Education is another goal of ours.

A big thank you to all those who helped make this a success. I learned a lot about what we can do to make it even better next year. 🐾



Four BCHW Chapters Join Together for Work Party out of Indian Camp in The Teanaway Community Forest



By Darlene Brady, BCHW Ellensburg Valley Chapter

Purchased in 2013, the 50,000-acre Teanaway Community Forest (TCF) is co-managed by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). It is the first state-owned community forest. The recreation goals stated in the TCF Management Plan are to maintain and, where possible, expand recreational opportunities consistent with watershed protection. One of those opportunities includes horseback riding.

The Washington Trails Association (WTA), Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and BCHW have all volunteered to begin the work of trail construction, rerouting and management per Phase I of the TCF West Fork Trails Plan.

The Ellensburg Valley Chapter has adopted what is being called the Aspen Grove Loop. This trail takes off out of the Bruce Troppel Horse Camp/Indian Camp on the Middle Fork of the Teanaway River.

Most people who have visited and ridden this area are aware that you either ride two miles on the gravel road to reach the trail system that connects all the way over to the West Fork Teanaway River and Teanaway Campground, or you cross the Middle Fork River and ride up what many call the “Man from Snowy River Trail.”

Over the years, with continued stock, cattle and mountain bike use, the trail had become a deep and very steep chute. DNR wanted this trail rerouted to be more user-friendly for all groups of recreationalists.

Working with DNR, Bill Woodworth and Ed Letcher of the Ellensburg Valley Chapter spent many hours on the steep hillside, plotting out the best route to create a new switchback trail from the bottom to the top. After being inspected by DNR, a Cooperative Agreement and work order was drawn up with DNR so work could begin.

Volunteers from the Ellensburg Valley, Tahoma, Wenas, and Lewis County Chapters began arriving on Thursday, October 5th. They enjoyed two days of trail riding with warm sunshine, bright blue skies and spectacular fall colors.

On Saturday, October 7th, 23 BCHW volunteers (10 men and 13 women) ranging in age from 56 up to 85 gathered for a safety meeting given by Ed Letcher. Ed explained the equipment we would be using to build this new trail, how to safely use that equipment, and what our goal was for the day.

We all jumped into waiting trucks to take the slow two-mile drive up to the top of the hill, where we would begin the tedious job of building a brand-new switchback trail on the steep side of the hill. With the temperature in the 70s and the shade of the trees, it was perfect weather to work in. To everyone’s surprise and with lots of hard work, we completed the switchback in less than four hours.

It was quite a compliment to hear from someone who works with WTA that we need to teach their volunteers how to build a new trail so quickly.

The switchback removed the steepest portion of the trail at the top, but more work parties are needed to build two s-curves, eventually taking you to the bottom. When completed, we can decommission the old trail up the hill.

The Aspen Grove Loop trail will continue from the top, around the scenic Aspen grove. We will need to construct another new connecting trail to complete the entire loop. All of this work must be completed by 2026.

Following the work party, everyone enjoyed a delicious spaghetti dinner, compliments of the Ellensburg Valley Chapter. It was a great way to relax, meet members from other chapters and share stories around the fire. While we were all gathered for dinner, a rider camping nearby stopped in to ask if we were the ones who had built the new switchback. She thanked everyone immensely, saying she was pleasantly surprised not to have to dismount her horse and try to walk down the steep hill, which is what she and her husband would normally do.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the first Ellensburg Valley Chapter work party out of Indian Camp in the Teanaway Community Forest. 🌲

Trailhead and Trails – GIVE IT A TRY!



Work party setting up the new corral, DNR with WA Conservation Corps crew, Capitol Riders, and Nisqually Chapter.

By Andrea Cotey, BCHW Nisqually Chapter

Update on horse camping and riding at Capitol Forest, Fall Creek. Friends of Capitol Forest, Capitol Riders, Nisqually Chapter and DNR have been investing time and money in the area and hoping people will use and enjoy it. I've written what I thought was most relevant, but additional information can be found on the DNR Capitol Forest website.

Fall Creek Campground - Overall, the campground is well-kept. On weekdays half the campsites may be used. During the summer weekends, bicycle riders may fill up the campground. I still need to check that out. During my two weekday visits, the corrals weren't being used. The campground has eight campsites, two new horse corrals (each holds two horses separated by panels), five old wooden corrals with varying degrees of usability, and a toilet (a newer toilet is located at the new Fall Creek Trailhead located just above the campground). The new corrals are not on cement as the old ones. There are no highlines. The campground was created before recreational horse trailers became so long. A two- or three-horse trailer with a 12-foot living quarter can make it through, but a four-horse trailer with a 12-foot living quarter cannot (per Frank Servine). Camping is free but requires a Discover Pass. You cannot reserve a site. There is no camp host or cell service. The campground is well managed by DNR, and security staff ensure campers stay within the seven-day limit.

Fall Creek Trailhead - Friends of Capitol Forest volunteers completed a shelter in the Summer of 2021. Open to all users, it features a 30' x 30' covered area, a fire pit, a ping pong table, and a bocce ball court. There is a new restroom. The parking lot is paved and large enough for a well-attended group ride. The trailhead is located where the Greenline, Wedekind, Lost Valley, and McKenny trails meet. The entrance is right past the campground entrance.

Fall Creek Trails - An area map is on the DNR Fall Creek website. From this trailhead, Wedekind and Greenline are primarily the trails the bike enthusiasts use. As Ben Reed (a horse rider and bicycle enthusiast) recommended, from the Fall Creek trailhead, go toward the McKenny Trail, which forks Lost Valley Trail to make a seven-point-eight-mile loop back to Fall Creek Trailhead. Going in this direction will keep you facing bicyclists instead of having them at your back. Ben also advises riding on weekdays if possible. There are positive comments from horseback riders who frequent Capitol Forest on how bicyclists better understand how to safely share the trails. To ensure horseback riders always have a presence in Capitol Forest, we should maintain and increase our presence on the trails, use the campgrounds and continue friendly communication with bicyclists and hikers. This activity will also promote our good standing with DNR and any future recreational planning at Capitol Forest. 🐾

Interagency Passes

America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes are a suite of annual and lifetime passes that provides U.S. citizens or visitors an affordable and convenient way to access Federal recreational lands.

Each pass covers entrance fees at lands managed by the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, and standard amenity (day use) fees at lands managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Army Corps of Engineers.

A pass covers the pass owner and all occupants in a personal vehicle at sites that charge per vehicle, or the pass owner and up to three additional adults (16 and over) at sites that charge per person. Children ages 15 and under are admitted free.

If you would like an interagency pass mailed to you before your trip, please visit the [USGS Online Store](https://www.usgs.gov/interagency-passes).

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are 62 years or older. (You must have turned 62 before you can buy the pass).

I used my Senior pass in August. I reserved a camp site at Kalama horse camp through Recreation.gov. I received 50% off the cost of the site. I also used it to get into Mount Rainier National park for free.



Instead of buying one of these for \$35 per year, you can purchase a Lifetime Senior pass for \$80 plus \$10 for fees.



Lifetime Senior Pass

America The Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Lands Pass

\$80.00

Available

Add \$80 Product to Cart

We Accept



This does not replace the Washington State Discover Pass.

Use the pass to receive a discount at [RECREATION.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

Content Deadline for the January/February 2024 Online Newsletter is December 1, 2023

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

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

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

ATTENTION!

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2023. 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)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event. • Check to see if dogs are welcome.

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

2024 Rendezvous

Friday-Sunday, March 15-17, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Go to BCHW.org

1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Friday, March 15, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 21, 2024
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

23rd Annual Winery Ride

Saturday, October 26, 2024
Zillah, WA
BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Free Entrance Days in the National Parks



November 24 – Autumn Day

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 thn@bchw.org.

Chapter Name _____
Name of Ride _____
Date _____
First Rider Out _____
Location _____
Register _____
Lunch _____
Name of Pass Required (if needed) _____
Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required _____
Camping (if available) _____
Cost to Member _____
Cost to Non-member _____
Contact Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Website _____