The Trailhead News

Vol. 45 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2020

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BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

www.bchw.org

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Cover Photo: Bogachiel River trail work, river crossing.Photo by Rebecca Wanagel of WTA.

Disclaimer

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PO Box 7184 • Olympia, WA 98507 • 360.754.4543

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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

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

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

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

Tax Deduction

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

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

Ken Wilcox BCHW *In Memoriam*

BettyRae Shonka

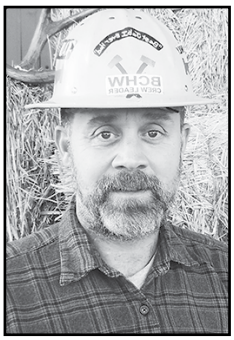
Trygve Culp

Jim Murphy

Teunis Wyers

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.

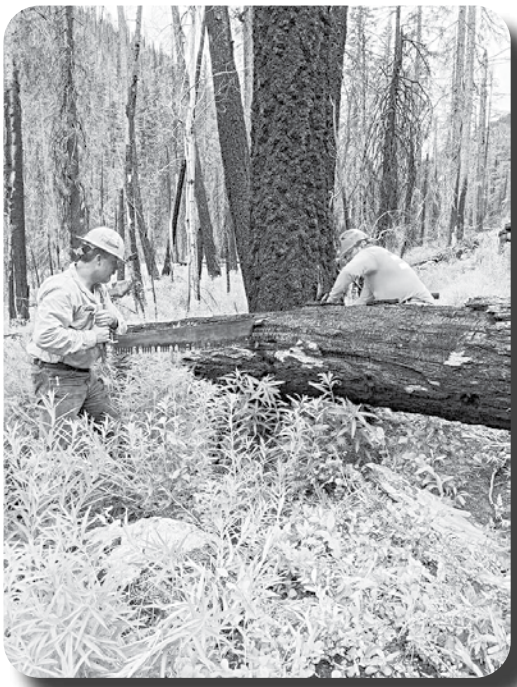


Junction In The Trail

By Jason Ridlon, BCHW President

As I sit down tonight to write this article three days past the deadline… I often seem to run into the same issue. Writer's block or too many irons in the fire? Boy howdy – as BCHW President, it seems there is always something pressing on my mind, something to consider, or something I need to give deeper thought to. But tonight, after multiple days spent afield working on trail projects or supporting our many partners, this comes to the forefront.

Again, it's back to why I joined "to assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource." It's a line directly out of our mission statement. I guess this might be a natural thing for the BCHW President who wears out shoes on four head of equine every summer in four to six weeks,



spends countless hours in the saddle, or pulls on a crosscut saw across Washington's wilderness areas. Anyone that participates at the leadership level of any organization, including the Back Country Horsemen, knows often the simplicity of a mission statement and might think it too simplistic or narrow to accomplish our work. Or is it?

Our BCHW committee chairs and I, as President, can easily find ourselves at a junction in the trail. One trail takes you down a wide trail potentially weighing in on all kinds of societal issues that promise to improve our ability to function within the trail community. This trail most always comes with the promise that you will have a seat at the table. The other trail, well, it's a bit narrow. It keeps you kind of sheltered,

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BCHW Mission Statement

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

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

Junction In The Trail

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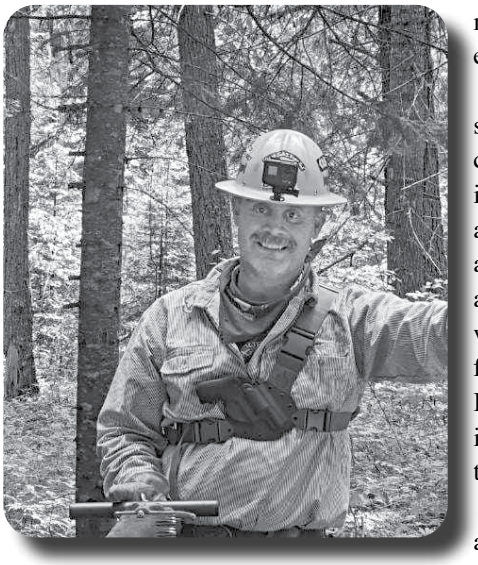
possibly protected, from a distraction you may or may not be able to afford.

So which is the right trail? I know for myself I like to keep my mind open to new ideas but at the same time keep my primary focus on the narrow sheltered trail. By my estimate, this trail still allows you to participate in "advocacy" but perhaps this advocacy work is the narrow trail and less traveled. Do we need to impress on all our trail partners that we believe and support all the issues that come our way?



I am not so sure. For many years, we have been impressing on them the need for stock support to protect our trail systems. We know you cannot have a trail system within wilderness or roadless areas without stock. Many of our partners know the value of our equine friends as we provide pack support to enable them to perform much needed trail maintenance. Is this not enough to get a seat at the table?

Why do I share this? It's fear of "mission creep". It's the kind of direction that can water down an organization making it impossible to perform within our skill-set and capabilities. As BCHW President, and as a citizen, I carry all kinds of concerns about the trail ahead. But while working within BCHW, my choice is to keep my focus narrow and directly related to our BCHW mission statement. By doing so, it's a break or vacation from everything that falls outside my interest in BCHW.

With this, I encourage you to saddle up and take time for yourself and enjoy the trail. Perhaps take a break from all the everyday distractions and participate in a BCHW chapter work event, test your gear, get your hands dirty, and allow yourself to enjoy the company of others that share your narrow trail.

BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW Memberships Expired on Dec. 31, 2020. Please go to BCHW.org and join or renew AFTER October 1, 2020 so you don't miss out on The Trailhead News. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952, I'm here for you!!

PRICING FOR OUR MEMBERSHIPS

In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	$41.00
Family	$54.00
Contributing	$75.00
Sustaining	$125.00
Patron	$250.00
Benefactor	$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	$1200.00

Position Opportunities With BCHW

Back Country Horsemen of Washington is looking for one or more individuals to perform tasks as paid contractors. We are asking if there are any members of BCHW, or other equestrians, that are interested. An indication of interest can be sent to Ken and more detailed information will be provided.:
Ken Carmichael, Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com

An initial show of interest (response) is encouraged by September 15, 2020.

Grant Management (Possibly break role into 3 separate job functions):

- Grant Researcher - The Business Development role working with the chapters and committees to identify the use of grants and finding reliable grants.
- Grant Writer – Develops grants based on feedback, requirements and needs
- Grant Coordinator – Facilitates all grants from inception to close

Fund Raiser – This position needs to have a fundamental equine background, a clear understanding of the BCH Mission Statement and an upbeat positive attitude that can sell our vision and articulate what BCHW can do for the business, or individual, in return for their donation.

Events Coordinator – The position will be best filled by a company or individual with an equine background to provide top-level guidance and coordination on various events such as Rendezvous, Winery Ride, Joe Watt, and other possible undiscovered fundraising events. Work with various chapters to coordinate best practices from previous events and potentially identify other new ideas to keep events fresh and interesting. Work with a variety of volunteers to plan and conduct events. To be used on an event-by-event basis.

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

FredMeyer community rewards
Where shopping & giving unite

Introducing the New Legislative Chair for BCHW!

By Mitzi Schindele, BCHW Legislative Chair

Hello BCHW members,

I am honored to have been appointed to Legislative Chair for BCHW. I'd like to take an opportunity to introduce myself.

Over the past several years I have served as current and past President of a local coalition that advocates for recreational public access. This experience introduced me to the world of building relationships with land agencies, the collaboration process, and networking with other organizations, community leaders, and stakeholders.

I am currently serving on Olympic National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee.

I was recently appointed BCHW's representative to WRCO NOVA Committee.

I am a member of Grays Harbor Chapter BCHW and serve as their Legislative Chair.

I look forward to working with the Legislative Committee members and Public Lands Chair. This organization has a great group of folks to get to know and collaborate with.

My goal is to serve this organization well.

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

BCHW Awards Report

By Mary Jo Krutak, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

"Covid-nomination-20"

Mother Nature does not know or care what Covid-19 is! She ignores all the Governor's "stay at home orders" and is relentless in her efforts to disrupt, cover, block, and even ruin our beloved trails.

No large organized work parties? No SWWP? No Rendezvous? No Prize Rides? No Chapter Meetings? No worries! Once again, undaunted volunteer members of BCHW take on Mother Nature to keep the trails open, safe, and beautiful. All our officers, committee chairs, and staff continue to work hard, becoming even more creative to continue to support our mission statement. This year more than past years, these loyal and truly dedicated members deserve our recognition. So, this year make a "Covid-nomination!

Do not put it off; please start putting together a nomination (categories listed below) and you will be "virtually" recognizing these great members! Pictures, recommendations from BCHW members, land managers or agency partners, and news clippings are all helpful.

Nominations may be from either a chapter or a BCHW member. Nomination forms and a current list of all known award program recipients are posted at www.bchw.org under BCHW Awards. Award categories are only given out once to a volunteer. Please look up the nominee to make sure they have not received an award in the category you are considering. Nominees must be a BCHW member.

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 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 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

SPONSORSHIPS Last year three different BCHW chapters and four businesses sponsored BCHW awards. These sponsorships, partnered with the BCHW award budget, resulted in fifteen volunteers being recognized in eight categories. You, your chapter, or businesses support for the BCHW Award Program will sponsor one of the award categories. Also, remember that with our 501(c3) there is a tax advantage for award donations.

Mary Jo Krutak Contact Info: 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.

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 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

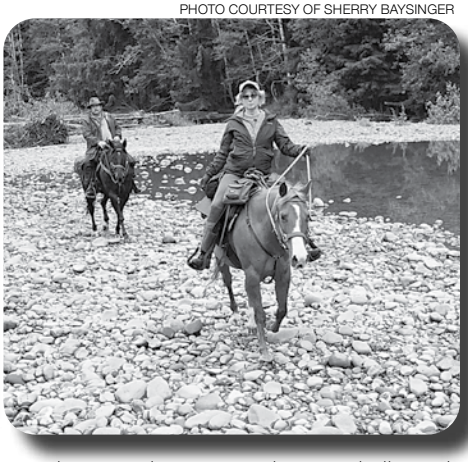
Must be received before Feb. 8, 2021. Awards will be presented at the BCHW General Meeting in March.

Bogachiel Rain Forest Trail

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRY BAYSINGER

WTA Work Crew

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRY BAYSINGER



Mt Olympus Chapter Members Rochelle and Ray Sutherland helped with the pack in

Sherry Baysinger, Mt Olympus Newsletter Editor

Here on the far west side of Washington, four and a half hours from the rat-race in Seattle-Tacoma and approximately 15 miles south of Forks, WA, lies the Bogachiel Rain Forest Trail. The trail meanders through United States Forest Service (USFS) and Olympic National Parks (ONP) land along the river eastward for about 10 miles and then heads into the Solduc area of the ONP. The trail was inaccessible for nearly 5 years due to a county road that slid into the river.

Our Mt. Olympus Chapter has been doing trail work utilizing a 2-year RTP grant. We have partnered with Washington Trail Association (WTA) on several work projects on the Bogachiel and Littleton Trail. We again contacted WTA crew leader Rebecca Wanagel who agreed to bring in a crew to help clear windfalls and brush the trail. Our plan was to get WTA tools and gear packed in as far as Indian Creek (8 miles) where the WTA crew would open trail from Flapjack Camp and possibly as far as the Low Divide.

But not even the first mile of the USFS trail was stock accessible. The Hurley Creek foot log had washed downstream during winter storms, so Chapter members Mike McCracken, Larry Baysinger, and I packed in grip hoists and ropes and managed to get the foot log back into place. There were a number of windfalls blocking stock access, so we packed our chain saw and spent a couple of days removing windfalls. Also, Chapter members Mike McCracken, Greg Anderson, and Larry Baysinger hauled in gravel so WTA could complete trail work they started in 2019.

We discovered that the USFS stock crossing at Kahkwa Creek had severely washed out and become very steep and totally inaccessible to stock. Larry Baysinger and I packed mules with hand tools and worked for several days carving a trail out of the side of the steep bank, utilizing geo-tech material and ground cloth to hold the sandy embankment. Later, several members of the Mt. Olympus Chapter assisted us with this work. We were able to get the ford stock passable.

We also learned that a bridge had collapsed under a windfall and would need to be rebuilt. We packed stock and materials in with plans to remove and replace the bridge, but the creek was nearly dry and there was good rock surface, so we removed the windfall and took the bridge apart. This completed the work necessary to get the WTA crew tools packed into Indian Creek.

At this point, the agencies closed access to the trails due to COVID-19. All volunteers were put on hold until the agencies had direction for working under COVID-19 guidelines.

Finally, on June 27, Mt. Olympus Chapter members Ray and Rochelle Sutherland and Boone Jones (who packs mules 5-days a week for the ONP) met us at the Bogachiel Trailhead to pack the WTA crew to Indian Creek.

Rebecca later shared with me that, as she hiked up to a clearing above the river, she saw us starting to cross the river. She said she grabbed her iPhone 11 ProMax, frantically struggling to get it open and managed to get that magnificent photo of our two strings of horses and mules crossing the widest part of the Bogachiel River. It's a rare photo because most of the time there's no one around to see what we do out there.

The WTA crew got a huge amount of trail work completed but, unfortunately, their next WTA 12-man crew work party was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Larry Baysinger and I rode in with stock and spent four days camping at Flapjack. We rode, brushed about 1.5 miles of trail, and worked on bridges every day. Boone Jones came in with his pack string with gear for the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) and spent the night in camp. Together we were able to pack out the WTA 12-man tool cache. We got to meet and thank the WCC crew members for their work clearing the trail and rebuilding the bridges, which made our ride much safer.

Our partnership with agency people and trail advocacy groups is a big part of what enables us to keep trails open and maintained for stock. And we have made some great friends along the way!

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERRY BAYSINGER

Boone Jones packed lots of tools for WTA on his big mules.

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

PHOTO BY KEN CARMICHEAL

By Ken Carmichael, Ponderosa BCHW Chapter Director

The equestrian area at Riverside State Park, near Spokane, Washington, provides a wonderful venue for horsemen. Many of us take advantage of the campground, arena, round pen, and trail obstacle course. Groups use it for events, individuals use it for training and exercising their horses, campers come for a visit and travelers use it as a stopover to rest horses as they come through Spokane. The equestrian area is connected to about 80 miles of trails in the park. It serves many equestrian needs of our community.

Now the Ponderosa Chapter of Back Country Horsemen is developing plans to do maintenance and additions to the features. Here is a quick summary of what we want to do:

- Trail obstacle course – perform maintenance on current obstacles and create new obstacles.
- Arena – put new stain on the rails.
- Campground – add more corrals to the existing campsites.
- Trails – limb some trees that have grown out over the trails.

We have committees established to work on each project. The process includes:

- Identifying the work to be done
- Cost estimates
- Park's approval and assistance where required
- Materials/tools
- Funding
- Work parties

As you can see a lot goes into the projects prior to the work parties. We hope to do the maintenance on the trail course and stain the arena this year. Additional trail course obstacles will probably be in the Spring. Other work will be done as labor and funding is available.

Where can you help?

- Funding for projects like this is always important. In this case, the Ponderosa BCH and the Riverside State Park Foundation are taking the lead. However, we always need cash donations for materials and in-kind donations of materials can reduce the costs. Individuals and organizations can make "restricted donations" to Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen. Contact me for ideas on specific materials needed.
- Work parties are really the fun part of the project. This is where we get together and see the final results of our hard work. If you, or your organization, would like to help we would love to have you.

How can you express your interest?

- Contact me. I am always ready to talk about the project, provide more information, or accept your contributions and labor.
- Ken Carmichael 509-466-2225 or kcarmichael2225@gmail.com
- Ponderosa BCH PO BOX 1184 Airway Heights WA 99001
- PayPal donations can be made through the PBCH website www.pbchw.com.

Thank you for your support. We want everyone to enjoy this great equestrian venue. Come join us.

NOTE: Back Country Horsemen of Washington is a 501C3 non-profit with the mission of preserving and enhancing the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. We do this through education, advocacy, and moving dirt (trail work). And we have fun doing it.

PHOTO BY KEN CARMICHEAL

Riverside Equestrian Camp – Spokane Washington

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS

This was Debbie's site. The pull throughs are nice and spacious.

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS

Yes we belong to the "warethefukarewe" tribe

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS

This is not the map we bought but it gives you an idea of the layout of the camp and trails.

By Barbara Thomas, BCHW Mt. St. Helens Chapter

Before we begin our story and feedback on this camp and trail system, we would like to thank Ken Carmichael with BCHW for posting information about this camp on the BCHW Facebook page. This got me, Terri Anderson, Nancy Rust, and Debbie Sappenfield the idea to try out a new area we have never camped in before.

The park's reservation system is not very horse user friendly. There is no indication that you need to use the filter button option to say you are looking for an equine site, although, if you don't, you get an error when trying to reserve a spot. The system also does not tell you in the details that only a few sites have separated corrals. Sites that take 2 horses have a 16' x 16' corral without a divider. There are highlines available if you bring your own equipment. The sites are a nice size, some pull-through/some back in. The water is potable and the restrooms are well maintained. The inner-circle sites have electrical hookups that come in handy for those with air conditioners.

Riverside is about 6 hours northeast of Clark County on easy freeways like I82 right on the outskirts of Spokane. We headed out early to beat the heat and arrived around 2 PM.

We purchased a newly published map and headed off the next day by 6:30 AM, riding the ridges and then dropping down to ride along the Spokane River. The trails are well maintained. Some of the trails, however, don't have the signs yet so it is easy to get off course like we did the first day, wandering off and finding some old evidence of dwellings and remains of concrete buildings we

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PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS

Someone had to show off! Rooster made Terri proud

PHOTO BY BARBARA THOMAS

The military cemetery that we stumbled on

West Fork Humptulips River Trail #806

By Lori Lennox, BCHW Grays Harbor Chapter Director

The West Fork Humptulips River Trail #806 is a rain forest trail in the Olympic National Forest, not far from Humptulips, WA, that is open to non-motorized users. The Grays Harbor Chapter has had a Volunteer Agreement to work on the trails in this drainage since 2007. Then United States Forest Service (USFS) Recreation Planner Pete Erben approached the chapter that year about helping them out with this trail. Now retired, Pete and his wife Nancy are BCHW members and are still very involved in this trail; Pete has procured a couple of RTP grants for materials for the trail in the past and we are working with one now, RTP Grant #18-2255, which expires on October 1, 2021. The chapter reopened an old one-mile trail from an old gravel pit to the river and trail, making it the only horse-friendly camping area in the Quinault area on the Pacific Ranger District.

The chapter had a late start opening up the 17 miles of the trail with its 22 river crossings and the 4 1/2 miles of access trails that they try to maintain each year due to COVID-19 restrictions for trail work. They were concerned about being able to make the match needed for the grant. Luckily they were at least able to get out to scout and enjoy the trail, thanks to trail access from an old gravel pit, which is now a popular camping area for stock users. Riders found this huge ancient spruce across the trail this spring and the chapter realized they would be able to get quite a bit of match thanks to it alone!

Grays Harbor County achieved Phase 3 in Washington's State's phased reopening plan and, once the Olympic National Forest completed the Covid Risk Assessment documents, Grays Harbor Chapter was given to go-ahead to start working again on June 30th. The river always leaves surprises for trail crews after the wet winter storms and high water. Working to get the most popular trailhead open first, volunteers working in small groups got a couple of trail realignments done, bucked out blowdowns and cleaned, graveled, and repaired some damaged puncheons. A large log was discovered completely blocking trail access to both hikers and stock. The log was so impressive several of us started calling it "THE LOG".

On August 13th, a group of six went in the 2 miles from the campsite to THE LOG. Packers Bruce Brown and Jerry Fulbright loaded up 2 pack mules with the saws and equipment needed to take to the worksite; lucky for us this area is not in Wilderness so power saws could be used. The guys also helped swamp for cutters Teddy Olsen and Frank Stinchfield who ran saws for almost 3 solid hours. Teddy is a professional cutter and a former BCHW Evaluator/Instructor who often works for the Pacific Ranger District on other projects. Frank is a certified sawyer with Eyes in the Woods, who we met during a saw-training class sponsored by our BCH saw cadre. Two other members, Chapter President Beth Branshaw and Director Lori Lennox were also along. When there was a cut wide enough that would allow horses through they went upriver another mile to see what else the winter left for us; luckily they were able to open-cut out the rest of the minimal damage to connect where Nancy Erben and Lori had opened up a couple of weeks before. The trail is now open for 8 Miles from the Gorge Bridge Trailhead to the historic West Fork Shelter, located a mile south of the Lower Pete's Creek Trailhead. With a few more work parties, the chapter hopes to open up the remaining 4 miles to the Campbell Tree Grove Campground and complete a ½ mile trail link that will open up an 8-mile loop trail that will provide access from the Rendezvous Camping area to the West Fork Shelter and West Fork Humptulips River Trail System.

Riverside Equestrian Camp – Spokane Washington

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dubbed "jails". The trails are a mixture of easy riding for the most part with sections challenging due to large rocks and step downs. Some of the trails up to a ridge can be quite steep and rocky but aren't very long before you get onto a ridge where the trails get easier again.

There are a lot of renegade trails made by users which can lead you astray. This is why one day we took a trail that ended at the military cemetery. The trail we took up wasn't one we wanted to go down so we ended up finding the Centennial Trail that looked promising on the map. What we found out is that this Centennial Trail was a paved trail for cars, bikes, hikers, and horses so we ended up veering off and finding the south part of the river, took another renegade trail up to some facility and then finally found a trail that took us to the bridge where you cross over into the suburbs of Spokane. On the way back, a hiker let us know she saw a moose down by the river and, even though we didn't spot him, that was kind of exciting to know they were in the area. In fact, the next day, riding along the ridge again, Terri and Nancy heard a moose grunting at us, letting us know he was there and not to mess with him!

On our last day, we decided to give ourselves and our horses a break and rode up the road to the outdoor arena and hazard course. At first glance, the course looked ridiculously easy. Little did we know that you are supposed to zig and zag backward, get up on such a small tire and drag a horse eating 10' tree limb! We had fun, although I'm not sure our horses agreed. After some of the trails they went up and around the past few days, I would cut them a break.

All in all, we four agreed that the travel time and cost was well worth it. If we had this camp, trail, and river system near us we would definitely go again. Here is to new camps, trails, and riding companions!

These are the kinds of "treasures" you find when you ride some of the side trails.

NEW RATES!

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

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

Ad Deadline Dates and Payment Due (or first business day after this date)	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

Ad Size	Ad Dimensions	Ad Cost 1x Insertion
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Fossil Bridge

Jim Anderson, Director, BCHW Mt. St. Helens

In 2010, give or take a year, the Mount St. Helens chapter applied for a Title 2 grant from the Forest Service to build a bridge on the Fossil Trail out of Kalama Horse Camp. The creek crossing there had been in use for many years and was getting quite dangerous with one bank being steep and muddy at times, causing very poor footing. We were awarded the grant for, I believe, $65,000. The grant was to cover design and engineering by the Forest Service and purchasing the bridge materials. The chapter was to provide the labor for installing the bridge.

After many delays, and two years' time, the engineering and design was done. The materials for building the approaches were purchased and we got started on building the first approach. A couple of work parties, with a good turn out of members, and we had the far side approach finished. The near side approach turned into a mess. Water started to surface and made everything muddy and unstable. Work was halted until a solution was found.

In the meantime, the actual bridge was purchased and delivered. The materials sat on the ground for four years waiting for the Forest Service to come up with a solution. Many personnel at the Forest Service changed during that time. Finally, the right people came together and a plan was made. The trail crew out of Mt. Adams district came down and fixed the approach and set the stringers in the summer of 2018. The Mt. St. Helens members came right on their heels and decked the bridge and installed the handrails. All that was left was to fill the far side approach, which was six feet higher than the ground. It wasn't until August of 2019 that we were allowed to finish that. With the donation of a skid steer and a member who knew how to operate it. We finished the approach and the first horse rode across.

There were times when we were ready to give up hope that it would ever be finished. The grant money was eaten up with over design and the length of time it took. The bridge is 66ft. long. Four glue lamb beams for stringers each weighing 7,000lbs. had to be moved three miles overland. I guess if there is a moral to this story it's don't give up if you want it bad enough.

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FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

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

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

3rd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting
Saturday, September 19, 2020
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick
360-640-1495 • bchwexec@bchw.org

CANCELLED

Traildusters Halloween Prize Ride
Saturday, October 10, 2020
Contact: Cindy Kinney
cindykinney05@yahoo.com

4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting
Saturday, December 5, 2020
Kittitas Valley Event Center
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick
360-640-1495 • bchwexec@bchw.org

Content Deadline for the November/ December 2020 Newsletter is October 1st

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

ATTENTION!

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.