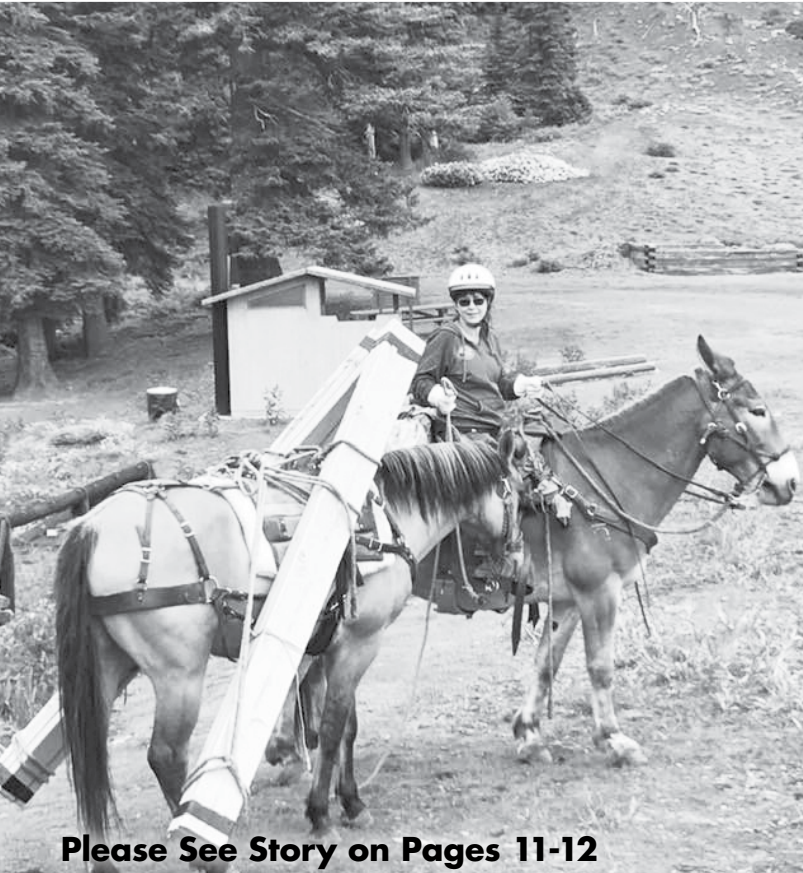


# The Trailhead News

Vol. 44 Issue 5

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

September/October 2019



**Please See Story on Pages 11-12**



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



**OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b> Kathy Young president@bchw.org.....	206.551.7824
<b>Vice President</b> Jason Ridlon vice_pres@bchw.org.....	509.699.9927
<b>Secretary</b> Janelle Wilson secretary@bchw.org.....	
<b>Treasurer</b> Teri Starke treasurer@bchw.org.....	253.709.5052
<b>BCHA Director - Pos 1</b> - Darrell Wallace bcha_dir1@bchw.org.....	360.918.3016
<b>BCHA Director - Pos 2</b> - Jason Ridlon bcha_dir2@bchw.org.....	509.699.9927
<b>Alternate</b> Bill McKenna wintercreek10@gmail.com.....	360.599.2526

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

<b>Awards</b> Mary Jo Krutak Mjkrutak@outlook.com.....	
<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> Jeff Chapman bbbranch@olympus.net.....	360.385.6364
<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> Pete Erben public_land@bchw.org.....	360.482.1151
<b>Safety</b> Chuck Regimbal safetychair@bchw.org.....	360.871.5295
<b>Saw Program</b> Tom Mix backcountrypacker.mix@gmail.com....	360.582.0460
Tony Karniss 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> Sondra Johnston sgjohn1234@aol.com.....	253.843.2679
<b>THN Editor</b> Dick Yarbora ridgerider001@gmail.com.....	360.481.2132
<b>Volunteer Hours Chair:</b> Deb Wesselius volunteerhours@bchw.org.....	360.736.6106
<b>Webmaster</b> Jim Thode webboss@bchw.org.....	360.978.5336

**STAFF:**

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

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*Cover Photos: 2019 7th Annual State Wide Work Party. Top left photo: Sheryl Gunnells packing planks to Oregon Butte Lookout. Photo by Darrell Gunnells. Top right photo: Robert Mitchem and Janelle Wilson on saw, in background is the RCO VIP representative, Jesse Simms. Photo by Doc Wesselius. Bottom photo: forefront to rear, Kay MacCready, Geri Jo Wolanski, Mary Jo Krutak, Bennett Upper, bank Cathy Upper, Helen Dean, Tina Short, Tom Janes, Mark Reiss, Bryan Heiser. Photo by Doc Wesselius.*

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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

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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

# 2019 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Winery Ride Halloween Costume Contest/Prizes

Come ride your horse to various Yakima Valley wineries in Zillah, sampling wines as you go!



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

The ride starts at 1890 Highland Drive in Zillah. See our website at [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org) (Upcoming Events) for detailed directions and other information OR contact us at [bchwwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:bchwwineryride@gmail.com)

**First rider out at 9:30am | Last rider out at 11:30am.**

**Please, NO DOGS on the trail. Dogs left in camp must be secured and please clean up after your dog.**

- Early bird prize ride registration \$25 (price increases to \$35 if postmarked AFTER Oct. 16.)
- On Saturday after the ride, join us for a catered dinner and entertainment. Early bird dinner \$25 (Price increases to \$30 if postmarked AFTER Oct. 16.)
- Camping is available Friday and Saturday for only \$15 per night (no hookups, may not be level, but includes stock water & primitive restroom).

Hosted by...



*The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington strongly encourages you to drink responsibly. Plan to camp out Saturday evening with us—just \$15, and a small price for your safety!  
We want you back next year!!!*

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
<b>Lifetime Members</b>	
Mitch Baird .....	IND
Amanda Biles .....	TAH
Caleb Canby .....	MET
Missy Day .....	TAH
David Jackson .....	PSR
Kim Merrick .....	NIS
Heather Moorman .....	PSR
Jim Murphy .....	OLY
Bob Shonka .....	IND
Teri Starke .....	IND
Carol Wilcox .....	WEN
Teunis Wyers .....	MTA
Pat Wyers .....	MTA
<b>2019 Annual Meeting Head Table</b>	
Dave & Gail Sunde .....	FER

<b>2018 Annual Meeting Head Table</b>	
Rick Zeleznik .....	TAH

<b>2019 Benefactor Level</b>	
Dave & Gail Sunde .....	FER
Sherry Dahlquist .....	TDA
Tamara King & Eric Leung .....	TDS
Tamara King & Eric Leung .....	TDS

<b>2019 Patron Level</b>	
George Michel .....	LEW
Barbara Woo & Sott Bauer .....	CHC
Greg Johnston .....	IND

<b>2019 Sustaining Level</b>	
Connie & geen Baugher .....	MTA
Robert & Sheila Blakely .....	IND
Penelope & Garry Booker .....	IND
Mark Borden .....	SKA
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
Carrie Heltemes & Carolyn Kruckenberg ..	LEW
Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty .....	MET
Mary Kane .....	TAH
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford .....	PIE
Sally Laib .....	PIE
Rob & Barbara Lathrop .....	IND
Lori & Fred Lennox .....	GRH

Name	Chapter
Teren & Norman MacCleod .....	BUC
Gerry Magnuson .....	BUC
Mary McIntyre-Lee .....	IND
Al & Marcy Norrbom .....	TAH
James & Carol Oakes .....	IND
Mary & Dennis Owens .....	GRH
JoAnn Reider .....	TAH
Marc Reinertson .....	MTO
Boyd & Mikki Sharp .....	IND
Bob Showalter .....	RRR
Coco Spurway .....	NOR
Darrell & Kristy Wallace .....	NOR
Louise & Peter Walton .....	NOR
Judy Warnick .....	CCR
Brenda & Greg Wiebe .....	MTA
JoAnn Yost .....	GRH

<b>2019 Contributing Level</b>	
Earl & Dorothy Aalseth .....	CHC
David & Carrol Bainter .....	WIL
Andy & Debbie Bales .....	TAH
Bonnie Bentz .....	PIE
Sandra Boe .....	PIE
Bart & Velma Bradshaw .....	MET
Gene Brent .....	TAH
Joanna & Gil Clifton .....	NOR
Gary & Kathy Collins .....	MSH
Jan & Jim Craghead .....	CCR
Thomas & Sandra Eddy .....	IND
Ken & Pam Evans .....	MTA
Carol Finney .....	MSH
Jeanne Franz .....	BUC
Robert Gish .....	NOR
Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley .....	PIE
Linda & Steve Harer .....	TAH
Judith & Bob Hoyle .....	BUC
Sharon Jensen .....	TAH
Tony Karniss .....	LEW
Tracy Ketchum .....	TAH
Shirley Landgren .....	MTA
Bob & Nancy Lee .....	TAH
Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson .....	BUC
Ed & Teri Letcher .....	TAH
Holly & Jerome Malysch .....	WHA
Jack & Colleen McDaniel .....	IND
Paul Mellick .....	RRR
Steve & Sandra Miller .....	YAK
Kris Moran .....	GRH
Russell & Cynthia Morse .....	IND
Jeanette & John O'Keefe .....	MET
Sarah Pearl & Batty Sack .....	MTO
Ken & Lora Perrine .....	IND
Sandra Rafchick .....	TAH

Name	Chapter
Danielle & Carlos Ramos .....	IND
Leonard & Kathy Rolph .....	MTA
Kathy Russo .....	IND
Nancy Rust .....	MSH
Julia Seymour .....	WHA
Helen Shewman & Larry Sammons .....	BUC
Tim Surratt .....	WHA
Gerald & Margaret Throop .....	MTA
Chris Tornow & Matt Shirley .....	IND
Rick & Phoebe Trocano .....	MET
Patti Wible .....	OLY
Dick Woodfin .....	MTA

## 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.

For Membership Questions and Mailing List  
Address Corrections/Updates...  
Please email [membership@bchw.org](mailto:membership@bchw.org) directly!





## Who Are We?

We Are All Back Country Horsemen of Washington

By Kathy Young, BCHW President

**O**ur BCHW chapters all exist as local groups within one organization. I recognize that each chapter has its own personality and focus, but in reality, we are one entity. That is apparent when our members make the effort to come from every corner of the state to places like Umatilla NF for the Statewide Work Party and the Pasayten Wilderness with the "Hot Shot Crew;" places where we work as one group to fulfill our mission to keep trails open. Yet I still hear that some of our members are asking at their chapter level "What does BCHW do for me?" Or even "Why should we work with xxxx Chapter?" To me, these are not legitimate questions, but they do deserve a legitimate answer. You are each and every one of you a member of a single group, one organization, and one legal entity. If we all lived in closer proximity to each other, perhaps that would be easier to visualize and easier to manage. My challenge to members would be to think of your identity first as a BCHW member, and as chapter member for the convenience and purpose of sharing local projects, sharing information, and building a community that supports our mission. (Oh.... and you are not members of a club. Nope. I've been known to ask for a quarter for the "swear jar" when that particular terminology is used ;-)

So, what does this really mean? It means that we need, as much as possible, to operate with the same policies and standards across the board. We need to continue to build the strength and influence of BCHW in the trails communities of Washington State. On the local level, we need to know how our BCHW resources and committees work to build our organization. You know the old adage, "there is nothing new under the sun." Give that some thought the next time you have a need

for a procedure, rule change, or policy. Chances are there is another BCHW chapter or a BCHW committee that can help. Ask around, and if there is truly a need for something new, some additional policy, then you should take the opportunity to bring it forward for the benefit of all of BCHW. When we can speak from the same foundation, we will have more impact with our legislators and agencies. When we do not speak from the same foundation, it simply causes confusion and time lost to clarification, not to mention disengagement within our ranks. (I do recognize that there will be some local issues that chapters will speak to that may be different from the whole of BCHW. Communication is always key in these situations, and they can be managed.)

Back Country Horsemen of Washington has an impact and a strong position in the world of Washington trails and recreation. I want to continue to build that influence and make sure that we are always included and expected to be at the table when trails are the topic.

Use your BCHW resources. Your chapter directors' job is to help facilitate and to share the exchange of knowledge. We are not a secret society, we exist to build, educate, communicate and advocate. The Trailhead News and the BCHW.org website have lists of committees and links to the policies and procedures that guide BCHW. These should be available to officers and members and should be shared. The chapter director's purpose is to help members find, interpret and use our resources.

*continued on page 6*

### 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.



# BCHW Awards Report

By Mary Jo Krutak, BCHW Awards Committee Chair

“I’m *thinking* about joining the Procrastinator’s Club”

**Y**our friends, fellow members and trail buddies give back, making a difference by contributing to our mission statement. Now is the time to give back to them, by recognizing their hard work and dedication. Don’t put it off; please start putting together a nomination.

A nominee is a well-deserved volunteer you feel represents BCHW in one of the categories listed below. Pictures of your nominee in BCHW activities are very helpful. Recommendations from BCHW members, land managers or agency partners, and news clippings will also help the decision-making team learn about your nominee. Discuss with your chapter members to assist you in compiling the award packet for your chapter’s nominee. The fun part is keeping it all hush, hush!

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](http://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 thinking of. 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, fund raisers, 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 an event operating smoothly.

Backbone = 2, max 3 awarded

**CINCH AWARD** This award 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 President’s Diamond Award is decided autonomously from the BCHW Awards Program - the BCHW President awards a person or persons “In recognition of outstanding dedication, passion and commitment to the BCHW mission”.

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: [Mjkrutak@outlook.com](mailto:Mjkrutak@outlook.com)



# It's That Time of Year to Nominate Deserving Members of BCHW Who Volunteer, with a Prestigious Award!

By Mary Jo Krutak, BCHW Awards Committee Chair


I know you have been chomping at the bit to get your hands on this Awards Nomination Form! Let's recognize our dedicated volunteers who donate their precious time to our or-

ganization. Award categories, descriptions, and the nomination form are at [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org). Award categories are given out only once to a volunteer BCHW Member.

## 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 _____	

 Nominees Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please keep in mind, all the award judges must see your presentation to do their evaluation.  
The judges probably will 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 received (Outside of BCHW can be included)
- 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](mailto:Mjkrutak@outlook.com) or 425-301-2907

**Must be received before Feb. 10, 2020. Awards will be presented at the BCHW General Meeting in March.**

# Membership 2020

By Ken Carmichael, Chair, Membership Development Committee

**A**s we finish off the summer riding and work party season, it is time to think about 2020. First things first, and I believe that this involves a full, active and supportive BCHW membership.

BCHW Standing Rule No. 2014-1 in part states that “Dues paid on or after October 1 of the prior year will satisfy the dues requirement for the coming year.” This means that we can start completing renewal and new membership applications on October 1. There is no sense in letting it go until the last minute.

As we talk to members and remind them of the benefits of BCHW membership, we can encourage them to renew their memberships early. Also, for new members, by joining on October 1 they receive October through December free.

It seems that just about everyone has a different reason for joining, and supporting, BCHW. Some want the riding experi-

ence, some love the work parties, some enjoy the educational opportunities, while others want to help with advocacy for the trails. Then there are those who want to join just to support the mission with their dues. Whatever their reason, we want them part of BCHW. We want to make everyone feel welcome.

Now is a good time to reach out that hand at a BCH meeting, on the trail, or anywhere you meet an equestrian and offer them the opportunity to join BCH. Be inclusive. This holds true for the newer members as well as us “seniors.” Oftentimes the newer members are our best representatives.

We want 2020 to be the best year ever for BCHW and all the chapters. This starts with you, the membership. Be a BCHW advocate. 🐾

## Bylaws

By Ken Carmichael, Chair, BCHW Governance & Bylaws Committee

**B**ylaws are a document that helps guide us in the operation of Back Country Horsemen. They not only ensure that leaders and members follow and understand the rules by which the organization operates but also provide consistency as we change leaders and members.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington is kind of unique in that BCHW has bylaws and so do the chapters. We need to remember that BCHW and all the chapters are one corporation. The BCHW bylaws are what is provided to the federal and state governments. They provide guidance to BCHW and the chapters. In addition, each chapter has bylaws that guide the individual chapter. The BCHW bylaws state that certain facts need to be included in the chapter bylaws. Beyond that, chapter bylaws are unique to the needs of the individual chapter. On the Director Website, there is a sample chapter bylaw. The portion that is in bold is that portion which is required by BCHW to be in the chapter bylaws.

Besides the bylaws, BCHW and the chapters can have Standing Rules to further guide the organization. These can provide information not in the bylaws and may need to be changed more

frequently and easily. This may be committee descriptions, election and budget guidelines, meeting times and locations, or membership dues.

Another fact that I think is important is that the bylaws and standing rules should be shared with the general membership. First, the membership should be aware of what the rules are; this does not need to be shared among only a few people. Second, it provides a sense of belonging, commitment, and buy-in on what the organization stands for.

Bylaws and standing rules must reflect how the organization is currently functioning. For this reason, it is important that a chapter periodically review the bylaws and standing rules to bring them up to date. This could be done by a committee for approval by the membership.

As we approach the winter riding season, this may be a good time to review the bylaws and standing rules. While it is not required, the BCHW Governance and Bylaws Committee is always ready to review the chapter bylaws and help in any way possible. 🐾

## Who Are We?

*continued from page 3*

Leadership training is scheduled for Jan 25th, 2020. This training is open to all members. Training should be considered mandatory for officers, whether they are new or continuing. Please begin making plans to attend. Chapters should strongly support the attendance of their officers, committee chairmen and interested members in whatever

way they are able. This is where we can learn more, share what we know, and set our vision for the future.

Thank you all for your continued support of Back Country Horsemen of Washington. We are important and we make a difference. 🐾



# Phase 2 Carter Trail Repair BCHW OVC RTP GRANT-16-2714 Completed



PHOTO BY CHER BOWER

left to right: Roxie Campbell, Doug Walla, Kaari Guttronsen, Shelly Walla, back row Gene Wehmeyer, Steve McKinney.

**P**hase Two Carter Mountain Trail Repair Project, located on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lands administered by Sinlahekin Wild Management Area, was completed this June. This final phase entailed removing two old wire gates and replacing them with 16-foot steel tubular gates using heavy-duty easy open/close latches. This was a learning experience for many of us, as it was the first time using WDFW typical installation for all metal alternative fence.

Three members performed the layout and installed the hinge post the day before the remainder of the eight-person crew came on site. This allowed time for concrete to firm and be ready for crew accomplishments. It was identified in our safety meeting the headcover for the project would be sun shading type hats and plenty of water and breaks would be taken due to the heat and sun exposure. This is a sage step environment with low sage being the old growth. Vehicles with air conditioners were on-site to be used

as needed. The work proceeded very well including some brushing, completing the installations by early afternoon.

The existing parking lot post and rail fence were completed on a subsequent day by adding a third rail on the North and East sides along with a final adjustment to the two tubular gates. This came to a grand total of 81 hours of work for 8 members. The members included Gene Wehmeyer, Doug and Shelly Walla, Jim and Roxie Campbell, Steve McKinney, Cher Bower, and Kaari Guttronsen.

It should be noted that, while the gates were being installed, two separate stockmen, using the area for permitted stock use, stopped by and thanked us for installing the gates, with the comments these should be much easier for individuals to use and keep closed. One also thanked us for the way we are taking care of the area.

This area is used by hunters and for general non-motorized recreation use.

The project completion report and photos will be provided to Sinlahekin Wildlife Area for their record of our accomplishments. 🐾



PHOTO BY CHER BOWER

Gene Wehmeyer, Jim Campbell, Doug Walla behind, Shelly Walla, Kaari Guttronsen behind, Roxie Campbell



PHOTO BY CHER BOWER

Back row Doug Walla, Roxie Campbell, Steve McKinney, front Shelly Walla and Cher Bower

# RCO Grants Fund Rec Projects Throughout the Methow Valley, Okanogan County Region

State funds support trails, campgrounds, preservation

By Don Nelson, Methow Valley News

Okanogan County projects will receive more than \$3 million in grants through the state Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, the board announced last week. The grants include several major projects in the Methow Valley and adjacent areas.

Altogether, the state allotted \$126 million for 333 projects throughout the state that are intended to build and maintain outdoor recreational facilities, and conserve wildlife habitat and working farms and forests.

The monies are familiarly known as RCO grants, for the Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers the grants. Recipients are chosen based on a comprehensive application and review process which includes priority rankings for funding. Most recipients are required to provide matching funds or in-kind contributions.

"The funding creates more places to play, expands habitat for fish and other wildlife, supports clean air and water, and upholds healthy communities across Washington state and improves our quality of life," said Kaleen Cottingham, RCO director, in a press release.

"Not only do these grants support our state's parks, forests and farms, but they also fuel a powerful outdoor recreation economy that puts about 200,000 people to work and generates more than \$26 billion in spending every year," Gov. Jay Inslee said. "At a time when public lands are more and more at risk of being developed or lost altogether, these grants prioritize our outdoor spaces so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy and protect them."

The total grant amount is determined by the state Legislature as part of the state's biennial budget. With the Legislature's recent approval of the capital budget, grants are being distributed to cities, counties, state and federal agencies, tribal governments and non-profit organizations for projects in 37 of the state's 39 counties.

The grants were awarded through seven different funding sources. Revenue comes from a mix of federal grants, the sale of state bonds, gas taxes and user fees.

Here's an overview of projects funded in or adjacent to Okanogan County:

- The Town of Winthrop was awarded \$488,000 to help purchase 139 acres of open space adjacent to the town in the Heckendorn neighborhood. The purchase fulfills a goal of protecting undeveloped land and ensuring public access to a network of walking trails across an iconic shrub-steppe hillside. With the threat of a sale looming, the Methow Conservancy purchased the land until Winthrop could get funding to buy it for a public park. Following the acquisition, Winthrop will work in partnership with the Methow Conservancy and Methow Trails to develop access, parking and a network of walking trails on the land. Winthrop will contribute \$326,900 in private grant and donations of cash and property interest, or 40%, toward the \$814,900 project.



Photo courtesy of Recreation and Conservation Office  
Improvements will continue at the North Summit Horse Camp.

- The Methow Conservancy was awarded \$427,319 for preserving farmland near Twisp. The Methow Conservancy will use the grant to buy 2,180 acres in the Twisp Uplands?—?Lehman Uplands Phase II and Nysether?—?to protect shrub-steppe, streambank and wetland habitat; conserve mule deer and at-risk species; and maintain seasonal wildlife corridors while allowing private landowners to continue to farm the land. Without easement protection, the landowners likely would subdivide and sell their lands for residential development. The Conservancy will contribute \$2,056,622 (83%) toward the \$2,483,951 project.
- The U.S. Forest Service was awarded \$63,404 to help maintain the Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail. The Methow Valley Ranger District will use the grant to continue to replace equipment and maintain the trail in the Pasayten Wilderness. Work will include clearing trails, repairing trail surfaces, controlling erosion, and repairing trail sections damaged by fire. In 2009, Congress designated the Pacific Northwest Trail as a national scenic trail. The Methow Valley Ranger District maintains 85 miles of this trail. Remote crews, supported by pack stock and using traditional wilderness tools, do most of the work. The Forest Service will contribute \$145,380, or 70%, toward the \$208,784 project.
- The Forest Service was awarded \$111,747 to help develop the North Summit Horse Camp. The Methow Valley Ranger District will use the grant to work in conjunction with Back Country Horsemen to complete the second phase of the North Summit Horse Camp development, on Loup Loup Pass between the Okanogan and Methow valleys. The project would include adding six pull-through campsites (to the six campsites already developed), toilet facilities, picnic shelter, wa-

*continued on page 9*



## RCO Grants Fund Rec Projects Throughout the Methow Valley, Okanogan County Region

*continued from page 8*

ter for stock, cow fencing, manure bunkers, and graveling. The finished campground will be one of two equine-focused campgrounds and picnic areas in the area with facilities to accommodate equine. The ranger district will contribute \$48,135, or 30%, toward the \$159,882 project.

- The Forest Service was awarded \$95,674 for a program to educate climbers in the Methow Valley. The Methow Valley Ranger District will use the grant to fund two climbing rangers and two volunteer climbing rangers. The rangers will educate climbers about environmental stewardship, determine educational needs, collect use and resource data, identify environmental impacts, enforce regulations, and continue to build relationships in the community and with climbing organizations. One of the premiere and most popular climbing areas in the state, the district has more than 400 published climbing routes at 64 different areas. The Forest Service will contribute \$95,888 toward the \$191,562 project, or about a 50-50 split.
- The Forest Service was awarded \$150,000 for maintaining Methow Valley campgrounds. The Methow Valley Ranger District in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest will use this grant to fund four seasonal employees and expenses for seven volunteer campground hosts to clean and maintain 23 campgrounds spread across the district. The employees and volunteers will maintain all campground facilities, roads,

pathways, picnic tables, fire grates, water systems, signs, dumpsters, and outhouses. The grant also will pay to monitor noxious weeds, remove hazardous trees, and enforce regulations as well as buy cleaning supplies, maintenance tools and materials, and toilet paper. The Forest Service will contribute \$224,783, or 60 percent, toward the \$374,783 project.

- The Forest Service was awarded \$140,000 for maintaining trails in the northern Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Tonasket Ranger District will use the grant to maintain multiple-use trails in its and the nearby Methow Valley Ranger District, which provide opportunities for motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Duties would include clearing and repairing trails and bridges, updating signs, and implementing minor trail re-routes. This project will help address deferred maintenance and ensure continued public access. The ranger district will contribute \$62,610, or 31%, toward the \$202,610 project.
- The Forest Service was awarded \$149,984 for maintaining trails in the Methow Valley Ranger District, which will use the grant to fund a full-time, four-person trail crew to maintain trails in the Pasayten Wilderness, Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, North Cascades Scenic Highway corridor, and surrounding backcountry areas for two years. Work will include taking out downed trees, repairing trail tread, addressing areas of standing water and other maintenance. The primary recreation opportunities this project supports are hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The ranger district will contribute \$150,980, or 50%, toward the \$300,964 project.
- The Forest Service was awarded \$198,938 for patrolling the Methow Valley and Tonasket Ranger Districts. The grant will fund three seasonal rangers, two interns and community volunteers to educate visitors about leaving the area the way they found it and to enforce regulations. Patrols will travel by foot or stock and focus on popular areas in the North Cascades Scenic Corridor, Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas, and the Pacific Crest Trail. The Forest Service will contribute \$216,359, or 52 percent, toward the \$451,297 project.
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was awarded \$223,000 for renovating the Blue Lake water access site about 5 miles southwest of Oroville. The department will renovate the hand-launch area and parking, build pathways, and install a fishing platform, toilet, signs, barrier rocks, and wood fences. The site is used for boating, wildlife viewing, and fishing. This grant is from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The project is 100% percent funded by RCO.
- WDFW was awarded \$92,400 for restoring Scotch Creek to improve grouse habitat in the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area, in Okanogan County. The Columbian sharp-tailed grouse is listed as a species threatened with extinction by the state, and exists in only seven isolated and small populations in Washington, with the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area being one of those places.



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## RCO Grants Fund Rec Projects Throughout the Methow Valley, Okanogan County Region

*continued from page 9*

The grouse eat water birch in the winter and the department wants to establish birch along the creek. The department will install beaver dam analogs to raise the water table and allow the creek to meander and collect sediment into the creek's incised channel. The project is 100% RCO-funded.

- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation were awarded a \$93,750 grant for design of a boat launch at Nicholson Beach at the north end of Omak Lake. The tribes will use this grant to design and permit a boat launch at the undeveloped Nicholson Beach at the north end of the. The largest saltwater lake in Washington, Omak Lake is a unique natural area, with almost no surrounding development. The tribes will contribute \$31,250, or 25%, for the \$125,000 project.
- The Okanogan Land Trust was awarded \$729,363 for conserving rangeland, a preservation agreement for 2,691 acres of the Ellis Barnes Livestock Company's land, which will restrict future development. The land includes wetlands that provide habitat for waterfowl, cavity-nesting ducks, and Chinook salmon. The Barnes family began assembling this ranch in 1924 and incorporated it in 1929, making it one of the old-

est in Okanogan County. Okanogan Land Trust will also contribute \$729,364 in a 50-50 match for the \$1,458,728 project.

Other grants that may affect Okanogan County or the valley:

- The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance was awarded \$37,500 for maintaining eastern Washington trails. The alliance will use the grant to support more than 10,000 volunteer hours to maintain more than 200 miles of non-motorized trails and 120 miles of motorized trails in eastern Washington.
- The Back Country Horsemen of Washington were awarded \$51,245 for restoring trails damaged by wildfires, flooding and windstorms. The group will use the grant to organize three large volunteer events to work on damaged national forest trails. The group plans to start with trails impacted from the 2018 Crescent Fire near Twisp, with five other areas to target in consultation with U.S. Forest Service staff. Back Country Horsemen of Washington will contribute \$300,000 in labor. 🐾

*~Reprinted with permission  
from Methow Valley News*

## BCHW Membership Announcement

We have been making a lot of changes with our membership program. Instead of using the application here in the Trailhead News please go to [bchw.org](http://bchw.org). Click on JOIN if you are a new member or click on Member Log In if you are renewing. If you have any questions or problems please do not hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, your State Membership Chair, at [membership@bchw.org](mailto:membership@bchw.org)

### 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

## Content Deadline for the November/ December 2019 Newsletter is October 1st

# ATTENTION!

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.

# 7th Annual State Wide Work Party



By "Doc" Wesseliuss

**M**ount Misery and Danger Point conjure up visions of geographic landscapes that require a concerted effort to reach the remote destinations. Trails in the Umatilla National Forest, in southeast Washington's Blue Mountains, provide a challenge to maintain access to locations in the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness. Wilderness trail maintenance in the area is a perpetual exertion by the Forest Service (USFS), especially in these times of budget cuts and reduced employment.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) partnered with the USFS to assist with wilderness trail maintenance and trailhead facilities upkeep. Jason Ridlon, BCHW Vice President/Trail Work Coordinator, synchronized every small aspect in the multitude of details required to organize and conduct a four-day work party involving volunteers from twenty-one state chapters. Several years of diligent effort was required to synchronize the conglomerate between USFS and BCHW. Working with Kenny Bott, USFS District Recreation Manager, and Andy Augar, USFS Recreational Trail Manager, arrangements were made to identify projects that needed attention.

Headquarters for the event was provided by Dave and Sas Waldron, commercial and licensed packers, at their Western Life Outfitters' facilities at Goose Corral. Preparations for the management of a large group of volunteers with their trail stock in the remote setting required arrangements to provide water and delivery of weed-seed free hay at the camp. Procurement of provisions and commitment from a staff of cooks was also necessary to feed the volunteers three meals a day for five days.

An undertaking of this magnitude could not be accomplished without financial assistance. A Recreation and Conservation Organization grant, Recreational Trails Program 16-2675, was obtained to bear the cost of the event. The requirement for the grant necessitates a volunteer labor match, based on hourly work values, amassed throughout the project. Seventy volunteers accumulated 2,755 volunteer hours for a labor match totaling \$78,000.

In addition to BCHW volunteers, Northwest Youth Corps and Pomeroy Youth Corps personnel assisted the workforce that assembled for the occasion. With all the details covered, the next challenge was to assign volunteers the various projects to undertake and appoint crew leaders to lead the labor force.

The trailhead crew, with guidance from USFS, conducted maintenance at Tepee, Godman, and Twin Buttes trailheads and repaired a signpost at Moolac Springs. Assisted by one of the youth groups, the crew painted 16 picnic tables, 4 corrals, 3 trailhead signs, 3 outhouses, and a group picnic shelter. Four stock feeding structures and hitching rails were repaired and coated with Crib Halt to prevent future damage. While fixing the signpost at Moolac springs, the crew partook of fresh mountain spring water then painted the picnic table.

Supporting repairs for the Oregon Butte Lookout, a packer hauled six 2"x 6"x 8' planks on his mule to the tower. Other packers each morning met with their crew leader and determined the tools necessary for the day's work and loaded their pack stock. Trail crews left the camp compound and rode to their worksites; however, the West Butte Creek Trail #3138 crew and their riding stock, plus pack stock, had to be hauled 4 miles to Godmen Trailhead. Just another detail that Jason had to attend to every day in addition to delivering, with support from helpers, water and hay to each campsite for the stock's nightly feeding.

The Northwest Youth Corps brushed out, logged out, and conducted trail tread repairs on the West Butte Creek Trail #3138 from Godman Trailhead. A crosscut crew camped four nights at their worksite on East Butte Creek Trail #3112 clearing blow-downs. They appreciated the packers who hauled their tools and camp supplies to their campsite and brought them back for the 4th of July celebration the last night of the gathering.

Mount Misery Trail #3113 had two projects on the trail that required considerable expertise to correct hazards in the

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## 7th Annual State Wide Work Party

*continued from page 11*

trail. At Oregon Butte Springs, water over the years had eroded the trail and exposed two culverts at the crossing. The culverts were dug out then set back in place after digging out a trench to make the crossing level. Once the culverts were in place, they had to be covered with dirt to make a smooth crossing. The second project corrected a rock outcropping that protruded into the trail and was slippery due to small drainage. After the rock was chipped out, a two-day effort, a French Drain was installed, and covered with dirt, to carry the water away from the trail.

Smooth Ridge Trail #3105 crews cleared the trail and worked on logging out Yearling Ridge Trail #3140. Geo-tech fabric material and fill dirt was used to raise the trail tread in a boggy spot; subsequently preventing water from accumulating in the trail.

Turkey Creek Trail #3136 was cleared to the intersection with the Panjab Trail # 3127; a popular route to Oregon Butte. Water bars were installed, and others were dug out to prevent water damage to the trail. One group diverted water drainage from the trail to prevent water from flowing down the trail.

Every evening the crews, some covered with mud, returned for dinner and shared their day's struggles with other volunteers. Everyone was fascinated with the day's accomplishments and proud of the collective efforts to clear and maintain trails in the panoramic Blue Mountains. Future riders and hikers will appreciate the efforts of BCHW volunteers and youth corps groups that helped USFS maintain forty miles of wilderness trails. 

### BCHW chapters participating in the 7th annual State Wide Work Party

Buckhorn Range  
Grays Harbor  
Inland Empire  
Independents  
Lewis County  
Methow Valley  
Mt. St. Helens  
Nisqually  
Northeast  
Olympic  
Okanogan Valley  
Peninsula  
Pierce County  
Ponderosa  
Purple Sage Riders  
Rattlesnake Ridge Riders  
Skagit  
Tahoma  
Wenas  
Whatcom County  
Willapa Hills

## You can make a difference for BCHW

~Volunteer at this Year's Winery Ride~

**When:** Saturday, October 26th, 2019 - Zillah, WA

The host for the winery ride remains the Severino Cellars Vineyard. The address for the camp location is 1890 Highland drive in Zillah, the same as last years event.

For General information email questions to: [bchwwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:bchwwineryride@gmail.com)

**Volunteers:** WE NEED YOU! It's time again to sign up to help at the 2019 Winery Ride - Please RSVP to Deb Wesselius at: [wesselius@wildblue.net](mailto:wesselius@wildblue.net) or 360-736-6106. You will have a good time and help BCHW raise money to support our mission statement.

**First-Up:** Volunteers needed for the parking layout crew. About 10-15 volunteers are needed a week prior to the event. Contact Deb to rsvp.

Dave Jackson will be the lead for the layout crew.

**Needed:** Approximately 35-45 winery hosts are needed each year. With your help, we were able to have up to 4 BCHW hosts at each winery. Contact Deb for detailed winery host job description.

**Parking Crew:** Volunteers will be needed for ATV and ground crews to park participants. If you have a side-by-side or ATV and would like to come out and assist with parking, think about covering a shift for the event.

**Prizes:** Please collect any prizes from your chapter or individuals donating for the upcoming Winery Ride. Dave Jackson or committee chairs Barbara Thomas or Nancy Rust will collect the prizes at the September board meeting. Please include the chapter or individual who donated the prize and include the contact address with your donation.

**Need:** Again, this year we are looking for horse trailers, stock trailers, or flatbed trucks or trailers that can be hauled to the wineries and left for stock containment.

Deb Wesselius  
[wesselius@wildblue.net](mailto:wesselius@wildblue.net)  
360-736-6106

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# BCHW 2019 HotShot Crew



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON RIDLON

*Jason Ridlon Mule Bill, horse Colby, Mule Chico leaving the Pasayten Air Port.*

By Jason Ridlon, Special Project Coordinator/VP

I have been asked several times, why a BCHW HotShot Crew? By Wikipedia's definition "In the United States, an interagency hotshot crew (IHC), or simply hotshot crew, is an elite team of 20 wildland firefighters, the most highly trained in the country, which are prepared to battle the most serious fires nationwide." Now by no means is a BCHW crew fighting fires nationwide or working on anything close to the level of danger a true HotShot Crew does, so why would we call ourselves BCHW HotShot Crew?

Our Back Country Horseman of Washington definition, "In Washington State, an interagency hotshot crew, or simply hotshot crew, is an elite team of trail builders, the most highly trained and devoted, which are prepared to battle and clear, repair, and rebuild the most remote inaccessible trails in Washington."

This crew just wrapped up its third mission in the Pasayten Wilderness. Did it live up to our definition?

The planning for Year #3 started in Summer 2018, where WTA, PCTA, PNTA, BCHW were all present to begin conversations. At these meetings, we discussed priority areas needing attention to serve the greater interests of all organizations. The PCTA and PNTA had interest in the Holman Pass area along the PCT. This area was hit by a forest fire in Summer 2018 and caused many issues for both the Pacific Crest Trail [PCT] and Pacific Northwest Trail [PNT]. Trailhead access for BCHW in this area was tough to access largely because a stock truck was needed to navigate the road over Hearts Pass that is closed to stock trailers. So with

communication with the Methow Valley Ranger District, it was decided that pack support for these crews would be handled with FS pack stock and use of their stock trucks.

PNT had planned trail crew missions working out of the Iron Gate trailhead into Horse Shoe Basin. This area is of high interest to BCHW as an access point into the Eastern Pasayten. It is an area that we worked in during the 2015 State Wide Work Party [SWWP] and our past state president Trygve Culp has a trail head sign dedicated at this location. BCHW working in collaboration with PNT provided pack support.

WTA had a Northwest Youth Crew [NYC] planning work toward Rimmel Lake using the Chewuch Trail. BCHW included this area in our 2015 SWWP efforts. BCHW supported WTA by providing pack support into this area. BCHW supported a second PNT crew with pack support to Spanish Camp so their crews could work on that section of the #533 Boundary Trail. BCHW then assembled a hiking pack supported crew to continue

work on a project started in the 2016 HotShot mission to clear the #505 Ram Creek trail. This crew was largely planning on mop-up/log-out and tread work to make this trail safer for stock travel and to put the trail back onto its original mapped route.

On July 16, forty BCHW members gathered at the Robinson Creek Trail Head near Mazama, WA. Our mission was to conduct wilderness trail log out and re-deck a 40' bridge span on the

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**In the United States,  
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fires nationwide.**

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## BCHW 2019 HotShot Crew

*continued from page 13*



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON RIDLON

*Team 3 Darrell Gunnells leaving air port Mule Lilly and Chico.*

Robinson Creek Trail #478. It kicked off with a fantastic steak dinner provided by the BCHW Methow Valley Chapter and made a nice opening for a good BCHW safety/logistic planning meeting.

Amber Deming, the Lead Wilderness Ranger from the Methow Valley Ranger District, spent time at the trailhead giving insight into what these crews could anticipate for trail conditions and log load. Aaron Lee Burkhart from Early Winters Outfitters was also a welcome guest providing local knowledge in helping make this a successful event.

What happened in the hours following the safety/logistic meeting is one for the BCHW record books!

BCHW packers went right to work with a bridge crew prepping 12 x 4 x 6'6" planks for the 4.5 mile journey up Robinson Creek where this crew of skilled bridge builders rebuilt the deck and removed all the old decking by pack stock, creating a new stock safe bridge that will last years to come.

Three logging teams went to work organizing tools and prepping for 4 nights in the wilderness. These teams covered 3 different work sights: Rock Creek Trail #473, Tatoosh Butte Trail #485 and Boundary Trail #533. These crews rode out early on the morning of July 17th and rode between 21 to 24 miles before settling into their wilderness camp. Early Winters Outfitters carried 1200 pounds of certified weed free pellets to the abandoned Pasayten Airport where BCHW crews distributed this feed to the three logging crews. The July 17th trip in had its predictable Pasayten weather of heavy rain for better than 3 hours to dampen our equipment but not our spirits. For three days, these crews waged war on fire damaged trails and unhealthy forest to remove some 400-500 logs from three different trails. Then on Sunday July 21st, with some of the crew asking for more time to saw on logs, these crews made the trip back out to the trail head.

Once again, I ask did these dedicated crews live up to the BCHW HotShot Crew definition? I think you would agree with me that they exceeded the definition.

Imagine traveling across the state to a trail system you may or may not have ever ridden, working with team members you might not have ever met with the promise that the event leader had done enough research and planning to be sure stock would have feed, water, and that you and your stock have enough energy to make a 20 plus mile trip into the unknown or pack bridge planks on an unknown trail and construct a bridge that you have never seen?

BCHW should be proud to know there are still enough members that believe so deeply in our simple mission statement that 40 of them arrived geared for success and never stopped smiling to conduct some of the toughest most remote trail work Washington has to offer.

This work was completed in collaboration with FS, PNTA, PCTA, WTA and local Outfitters to help move us closer to open trails. BCHW should be proud knowing all funding for this project was made possible from our RTP Grant #26-1675 and a "National Forest System Trail Stewardship Boots on The Ground" Grant, as well as private donations. 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON RIDLON

*Team 3 logging 533 National scenic trail about a mile from Canada.*



# Ready. Set. Go!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LU YOUNG



*Work on Nick's Loop*

By Lu Young, Ferry County Chapter

**F**erry County Back Country Horsemen: We're busy this summer.

Ferry County Back Country Horsemen have been out clearing trails! This month we started our trail clearing on Nick's Loop Trail. The two-and-a-half-mile trail connects the Edd's Mountain Trailhead with the Snow Peak Trailhead. Six members turned out with loppers and one member used a chain saw where needed. We all worked hard for six hours cutting back the leafy Alder that had spread across our trail. This is a great little trail that crosses two creeks before it reaches its destination on the Forest Service 100 Road.

This trail was given to the Ferry County chapter so we could complete a loop starting on the Edd's Mountain Trail and reaching the Kettle Crest to the Snow Peak cabin. From there, our trail goes down to the Snow Peak Trailhead. Another three miles on the FS Road 100 takes us to Nick's Loop Trail and back to Edd's Mountain Trailhead. These trails, now connected, cover approximately 20 miles of high-country riding. Nick's Loop was dedicated to

Nick Davenport who rode the Kettle Crest trails many times on his mule Festus. He, like the rest of us, always preferred to ride a loop trail no matter how long the trail.

Well, we're excited about the plans that are coming about this summer to improve camping and riding for horses in our Colville Forest. Our president, Lesa Gregory, and our Forest Service representative, Carmen Neilson, will be joining our members to help erect two corrals at our Jungle Hill camp area in the Colville Forest. This is a high use area for horses and to have corrals will benefit horse users at this Jungle Hill site. We also will be helping with the new parking and camping areas at the Sherman Peak Trailhead. We will be having some new corrals and drive through parking spots put in at this popular Trailhead just for the horse-riding public. Under our new president, Lesa Gregory, we are getting a lot accomplished for horse riding in the Colville Forest. We invite you to come visit us in Ferry County and enjoy our awesome high mountain trails. 🐾

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LU YOUNG



*Ferry County Chapter's gravel work at the Jungle Hill Camp Area.*



# Building Bridges

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB HOYLE



Before photo with Jim Shaver, QTA president



Left to right; Sarah Dean; Helen Shewman; Judith Hoyle; Larry Sammons



After photo with Bob Hoyle

By Bob Hoyle, Work Project Coordinator Buckhorn Range Chapter


In early 2018, Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Manager, Matt Tyler, contacted Buckhorn Range Chapter to request help to replace a small plywood bike and footbridge on the fairly new Silent Alder Trail in Gibbs Lake County Park. Located 12 miles south of Port Townsend, Gibbs Lake County Park is a system of trails in a very wooded setting, developed primarily and maintained by Quimper Trails Association, a local mountain bike group. Built by QTA but open to all recreational users, the popular Silent Alder Trail runs through the newest section of the park, which was added in 2015. It crosses the seasonal outflow from Beausite Lake and the crossing can be wet and muddy in the winter and spring months. Matt asked us to build a structure capable of safely supporting stock. QTA had built the small bridge so bikes could cross safely, but a more substantial structure would be needed for horses. This led to an alliance between two groups who had not always been on the best of terms in the past, although Buckhorn Range Chapter had started to break the ice when we worked with QTA to help build the trail in 2016. Using funds from the 2018-2019 RTP 16-2714 Grant, we took on the request to build the new bridge.

I met onsite with Matt and Jim Shaver, the QTA president, in May of 2018 to plan the project. Matt asked me to develop a design and to work with Jim to bring the project to completion. After a couple of months of design and planning, I submitted the completed design to Matt for approval in July. The materials for the Type III puncheon were acquired at the end of August, including two special-order pressure treated 8-foot 12X12 sills. In all, materials for the bridge ran just over \$1,900.

After picking up the lumber from the local Arrow Lumber dealer, I pre-assembled the structure in our arena, pre-drilling the holes for the spikes used to fasten the 4X12 planks to the 6X6 stringers and numbering each piece for ease of assembly on site.

The first work party was held on September 1, 2018, to stage the materials at the site. The volunteers included 18-year-

old Kaitlyn Meek, Larry Sammons, me, and the self-proclaimed "Can-Do Crone Crew" of Helen Shewman, Kris Lenke, Judith Hoyle, Jean Grondahl and Sarah Dean (Pat Cosner brought fresh baked goods), all women of "a certain age." Several of the crew contributed most helpful suggestions for better ways of handling the herculean task of moving sixteen 6-foot 4X12's, three 16-foot 6X6's, not to mention the two 8-foot monster 12X12's, over an uneven winding trail for a quarter-mile then down a very steep grade to the seasonal creek crossing 50 feet below. By day's end, all were very tired and pleased to get the task accomplished with no mishaps.

The second work party the following Saturday, September 8, was attended by Helen, Larry, Judith, Sally and me, setting the massive sills and then attaching the stringers and planks to make this stout structure a reality. After much effort and pounding of spikes (and a few choice words), the task was completed, leaving only installing the curb rails and graveling the approaches on Sunday to finish the project. In the end, Ichabod the Troll was given a grand structure under which to live for many years to come (because every bridge should have a troll). 

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB HOYLE



Ichabod, the troll, because every bridge needs one.

# Horsemen Maintaining the Wilderness

## Local chapter seeks to educate while enjoying trails

By Jennie McGhan, Reporter, Sunnyside Sun

**YAKIMA VALLEY** — People who enjoy the outdoors come from all backgrounds and walks of life, living in and around towns throughout the Yakima Valley.

One group, the Yakima Valley chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Washington, believes in promoting the use of the wilderness and national forest lands while keeping them maintained.

Robin Faulk is the group's past president and shared how a group of individuals who enjoy riding their horses on trails where passenger vehicles are prohibited spend time venturing into nature and keeping it accessible to others.

"We want to be inclusive," she said, noting there are state and federal agencies that are incapable of maintaining the thousands of miles of trails that exist throughout Washington.

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*"We don't want trails to be closed to public access," Faulk said, noting it is nearly impossible to get them reopened.*

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In the Naches Forest alone, she said there's more than 1,000 miles of trails that are sometimes damaged by acts of nature, and sometimes by human complacency.

"We could be cleaning up fallen trees," Faulk said, noting there are many natural causes for forest debris like logs fallen on the trails. "Or, we could be cleaning up trash."

People enjoy the trails through the wilderness in a variety of recreational ways, whether hiking, on horseback or on ATVs.

No matter the case, Faulk said it is important to keep the trails maintained so that those charged with managing the land don't close them to the public.

"It's important to get people out, enjoying our forests and trails," Faulk said.

But those lands wouldn't be as enjoyable if they were neglected and deemed unsafe.

Faulk said the Back Country Horsemen is also in need of younger people interested in enjoying the trail rides and work days.

There was one project involving the stabilization of an area turned into a bog. No mechanized tools could be used, but a work group averaging age 68 worked with forestry officials to complete the job.

Faulk said it was a matter of perseverance and dedication to keeping the trail open that enabled the group to complete the job in a team effort.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH OSBORN




*Working the trails – A work party consisting of Back Country Horsemen of Washington Yakima Valley chapter members cleans a trail on National Trails Day, June 3,*

Work groups like that one consist of people of varying abilities. Even something as simple as someone bringing water to those expending their muscle power are appreciated, Faulk said.

While riding the trails, the group not only observes and takes in the surroundings, they try to educate others about the philosophy of "Leave no trace" as they encounter others along the way.

The horsemen have assisted camping groups with gear needing pack animals, they stock small ponds with fish for conservation and work with legislators to promote public access to the forests.

"We don't want trails to be closed to public access," Faulk said, noting it is nearly impossible to get them reopened. 

*~Reprinted with permission from the Sunnyside Sun*



# WHAT is This “Winery Ride” I Keep Hearing About?

PHOTOS BY JIM THODE



It's a weekend of horses (and mules!), wine, prizes, friends, costumes (optional), more wine, riding, camping, dinner, and entertainment – with wine! And even the wine is optional, it's all about having a good time.

## WHO puts it on?

The Back Country Horsemen of Washington. This is the 18th year of this annual event, which is a major fundraiser for this 501c3 non-profit state-wide organization that works to ensure that public lands remain open for recreational stock use. This year's event is being ably run by the new chairs Barbara Thomas and Nancy Rust from the Mount St. Helen's Chapter. The past chair for 17 years, Dave Jackson from the Purple Sage Riders, is guiding them thru the changeover. Dave will still be a big part of the Winery Ride – many thanks to all!

## WHEN does it take place?

The Prize Ride and Halloween Costume Contest itself is Saturday, October 26th but most people pre-register (required for camping) and come and camp for the weekend. The property opens up at 1 on Friday, no earlier unless you are a volunteer who has signed up in advance. VERY IMPORTANT: SEE FAQs at [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org) if you plan to camp.

## WHERE is this happening?

Zillah, Washington, in the Yakima Valley in the Rattlesnake Hills AVA wine-growing area. Luckily for us, the very gracious owner of the property where we create our Winery Ride Village for the event is a hay grower who is happy to have us there! If you are a returning rider, the driveway has been turned into a 2-way with an improved and wider entrance to the road!


## HOW does this whole thing work?

There may be up to 13 participating wineries, with two loop rides available and riders leave as they get ready, between 9:30 and 11:30. If you are entering the Costume Contest, judging takes place between 9:30 and 11:00 in a designated location. Riders can pick and choose which winery you visit. Riders go from winery to

winery on horseback. They can tie up to provided hitching areas or take turns holding each other's mounts and go in to taste the wines. Most will charge a tasting fee – BCHW has no control over this, nor do we profit from it - but will usually waive it with a purchase. Some even have food available to purchase. There will be Winery Ride volunteers at each winery to tell you where to tie up (somewhat limited) or where your friends can take turns holding each other's animals. They also point you towards water troughs (scattered along the routes) and restrooms. And they clean up manure and help the winery employees as needed.

Riders who are camping MUST pre-register, no exceptions, and it is suggested that you pre-purchase the Saturday night dinner also – there are Early Bird prices available! Day riders may sign up the morning of the event. Riders are each given a special armband and winery card, all they need to carry is cash or credit card. They can purchase bottles (or cases, as the “case” may be) and pay for it. Winery Ride volunteers make numerous pickups to all the participating wineries throughout the day to pick up the purchases and bring them back to camp. Typically that is approximately 2000 bottles that are brought back for the riders to pick up when they get in from riding! That doesn't count how many bottles that are consumed on the winery premises – or on horseback! Riders have until 8 pm Saturday to turn in armbands for a big drawing and they need to pick up wine purchases and any prizes they may have won. The Back Country Horsemen Store will be open all weekend, with commemorative Winery Ride shirts and other BCHW swag for sale. You can find more information – especially the FAQs! - and the registration form at [www.BCHW.org](http://www.BCHW.org)

## WANT to be a part of this but not ride?

It takes many volunteers to put on this event! Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Deb Wesselius at [Doc & Deb Wesselius wesselius@wildblue.net](mailto:Doc & Deb Wesselius wesselius@wildblue.net) to see about getting a job. Most of the repeat volunteers find it is even more fun helping to be a part of the Winery Ride Team than riding. It's a great way to make new friends and future riding buddies from all over the state too. We hope to see you there! 

# Skagit Chapter's 3rd Annual Prize Ride & Tack Sale Fundraiser

PHOTO BY MARILYN PINEDA



PHOTO BY MARILYN PINEDA

Another grandmother with her granddaughter.

Skagit Chapter's 3rd Annual Prize Ride & Tack Sale Fundraiser was held on July 13th and was full of accomplishments – the greatest of which was the age variations of all the participants! There were old people (no surprise, there!), young people, and middle-aged people! There were several families with their children and more than one grandparent with a grandchild! On that note – Skagit tries to make a point to have prizes that kids will like and fun things in the tack sale that kids will want to buy. It makes them feel so included and motivated to be involved!

Another fun fact is that the event attracted BCHW members from far, far away. Two couples came up from the Mount St. Helens Chapter to join us – Dan & Sheila Brooks and Brian & Tammy Jansen. They drove 5 hours to get there and camped out for the weekend to take in some additional trail riding in the Harry Osborne Forest System. Dan gave us his card and invited us to come down to his part of the state and ride out from Kalama Horse Camp – he said he'd be happy to show us the trails! I, for one, totally intend on taking him up on that offer in the not too distant future. Skagit also had folks from King, Snohomish, Island, and Whatcom counties. What a great day it was for socializing and getting better acquainted with members from other chapters!

The last point, but not the least, was the successful delegation of the right people for the right job in all of the tasks that needed to

Trevor & Melissa Rigdon with daughter Hayden and grandma, Shirley.

be completed for the success of the event. As in all BCHW fundraising rides, it included trail workers, route flaggers, lunch chefs, prize collectors, tack sale managers, and volunteers designated to accommodate all the different transaction activities of the day. Skagit had a fun and efficient inclusion of the experienced “been there done that” members, as well as new members jumping in to learn the ropes and contributing their areas of expertise!

I don't know at the time of this writing how much money Skagit made at this year's Annual Fundraiser, but I do know that it was wonderfully successful because of the people who reached out in so many ways to be a part of it, whether as volunteer workers or as visitors.

Skagit is hosting a Chapter Campout on August 16, 17 & 18 at the Les Hilde Trailhead as their next outreach. It is not a fundraiser; rather, Skagit is hoping to encourage people to use the recreational lands in the local area to camp with their horses. Members will be there to help folks who have never camped with horses, and Skagit is hoping to see more people from the community come to join in, again.

The Mission Statement for Back Country Horsemen is impossible to accomplish without people, so it is always exciting to see the people in activities and events. The focus on finding ways to include and encourage families and younger generations is particularly exciting and essential to the longevity of BCH. 🐾



PHOTO BY MARILYN PINEDA

Volunteer grandchildren exploring tack sale.



PHOTO BY MARILYN PINEDA

Kids playing with cars from prize table, parents not shown.



# NEBCHW Defibrillator Fundraiser – A Smashing Success



*Sunshine Superman and Posse.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM AND KARMA GOODWIN, CINDI STANTON AND LOUISE WALTON

By Louise Walton, Northeast Chapter

Being a “the cup is half full” person, let’s look at the successes of our June 29th, Defibrillator Fundraiser.

How, with most of us having no prior experience, do we organize such a potentially large event? We ask members to volunteer to be part of the team including a member who would like to be the Chairperson of the committee. Why not draw on the expertise of someone who has done this successfully? Ken Carmichael of the Ponderosa BCHW was invited to one of our general meetings and provided great insight into the planning and organizing of a fundraiser event. Our chairperson, Dana Slater, really enjoyed having Ken as a resource.

We had fifty (50) paying participants who signed up to ride. Impressive for our first big event. Our smile quotient was fabulous; so many beaming smiles on our guests and volunteers alike. Chapter volunteers reported many positive comments from participants including 1) would love to do it again next year, 2) the trails were marked very well, and 3) the games were challenging and fun.

Our goal was to purchase a defibrillator (\$1,500) for our chapter. Our estimated profit (not all the bills are in) is \$900 after purchasing the defibrillator.

Talk about volunteering. We were so fortunate to have at least 40 volunteers who worked in one or more phases of the event. And they were so accommodating. If someone didn’t show on the event day, there was no hesitation by another volunteer to cover that position/task. Such fabulous teamwork was so appreciated by the planning committee and our guests.

We learned a lot. I am in awe of our committee chairman’s & other volunteers’ talents & dedication and am so grateful for their positive attitudes, willingness to contribute, and hard work. We shared in the pride in the outcomes of the event (especially the happy participants) and reaching our goals. And let’s not overlook being especially thankful for new friends and appreciating getting to know old friends better. 🐾



*Thumbs up!*



*Chili dogs and big smiles.*



# Introduction To Trail Riding And Leave No Trace Clinic For Young People

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE WHITE



By Gary Cutler, Education and Leave no Trace Chair Northeast Chapter

**T**hursday, August 1st, I did a Beginners' Trail Riding and Leave No Trace clinic at the Legacy Farm and Boarding Stable in Loon Lake, WA. Jim Hudkins is the farrier for the owner and organized the clinic at her stable. Thank you, Jim! Jim, Sue White, and I got all the equipment set up in the covered arena by 0900. The kids were already waiting. We had 22 young people (ages 4-17) and 4 adults attending. I had one of the teenage girls bring a horse and set up a high line for him.

For the next two hours, I went through Leave No Trace principals, trail etiquette, and the equipment necessary for day or overnight trail rides. I got a lot of blank looks and then laughter when I asked if anyone knew what "Charmin flowers"

were. Be prepared; if you pack it in, pack it out. As I explained to the adults, you would not put a 14 or 15-year-old in a hot rod and send them out on the freeway. It is the same way for children learning to trail ride. They need instruction and training.

We had a great clinic with lots of questions and nobody fell asleep! I really enjoy doing these clinics for young people in saddle clubs and 4-H groups. They are our future in so many ways.

I have been doing these clinics for about 35 years for BCHW and it is always a pleasure to teach new riders what they should know before they go on front country trail day rides or into the backcountry. 🐾

## WHAT TO TAKE ON A FRONT OR BACK COUNTRY RIDING AND CAMPING TRIP

Saddle bags	Highline and tree savers
Hobbles	First aid kit for both horse and man
Hay bag & nose bag	Axe, bucket, shovel
Maps, compass	Food, Water & bottle and water purification tablets
Rain gear	Flashlight
Fire starter	Weed seed free hay or packer pellets
Easy boot for horse that lost a shoe	Medications





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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](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com).

### **Tahoma Chapter Prize Ride**

Saturday, September 7, 2019  
Riders Out: 8:00 am to Noon  
Danville Georgetown King Co.  
Parks Trails  
25258 Landsburg Rd SE  
Ravensdale, WA 98051  
\$20 - Hot Lunch & 4 Tickets  
Silent Auction  
Prize Winner Announcements: 3 pm  
Contact Ranae Stevens  
[ranae52@comcast.net](mailto:ranae52@comcast.net)  
[www.tahomabchwh.org](http://www.tahomabchwh.org)

### **3rd Qtr BCHW Board of Directors' meeting**

Saturday, September 14, 2019  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495 • [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

### **Willapa Hills Chapter Fall Fun Ride**

September 21, 2019  
Riders - First/Last 9:00/11:00  
Ticket donations - Adult \$20.00 includes ride, lunch, prize ticket, Under 14 Yrs. \$15.00 - includes ride, lunch, prize ticket Lunch only ticket \$6.00- not a prize ticket  
Location: Close to Mile Post 10 on State Route 6 between Raymond and Chehalis - Turn on Oxbow road by the sub station. Big tack sale also  
Helmets recommended - shoes or boots for horses  
- no dogs or stallions please  
Contact: Glenn 360-941-3986 or Kate 360-581-5541

### **Ponderosa Chapter Annual Scavenger Hunt Fundraiser**

Saturday, September 28, 2019  
First rider out: 9:00 am  
Riverside State Park near Spokane  
Preregister by 9/20 or at the event  
Lunch available for purchase  
No Discover Pass needed  
Equestrian campground on site  
\$20 preregistration,  
\$25 late registration  
Ken Carmichael  
509-466-2225  
[Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com](mailto:Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com)  
[www.pbchwh.com](http://www.pbchwh.com)

### **Traildusters Halloween Prize Ride**

Saturday, October 5, 2019  
Pilchuck Tree Farm Arlington, WA  
Registration at 8:00 am  
First rider out: 9:00 am  
Register for Costume Contest by 9:30 am,  
Contest starts at 1:00 PM  
Prizes & Raffles start at 2:30 PM  
No Smoking, dogs or stallions allowed on site, including parking area  
Food & Drinks available for purchase  
Call Cindy Kinney 425-344-4647  
No DOGS or STALLIONS

### **Whatcom BCH Chapter 3rd annual Salmon Fest Ride Fundraiser**

Saturday, October 5, 2019  
Bryce Creek Horse Camp at Heady trails.  
Ride and lunch for a donation of \$15.00.  
First riders out at 9:30 am, last rider at 11:00am.  
Directions: From Mt. Baker Hwy (542) East continue on 542, by Kendall, on roundabout take 2nd exit straight to Kendall Road (547). Turn right on South Pass Road, turn left on Heady road. Turn right at yellow gate and follow signs to Bryce Creek Horse Camp. Park at gazebo or field below.  
Contact : Helen at 360-592-8080 for more info.

### **18th Annual Winery Ride and Halloween Costume/Prize Ride**

Saturday, October 26, 2019 – Zillah  
for more information visit:  
[www.bchw.org/2019WineryRide](http://www.bchw.org/2019WineryRide) or  
email: [bchwwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:bchwwineryride@gmail.com)

### **4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' meeting**

Saturday, December 7, 2019  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495 • [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)