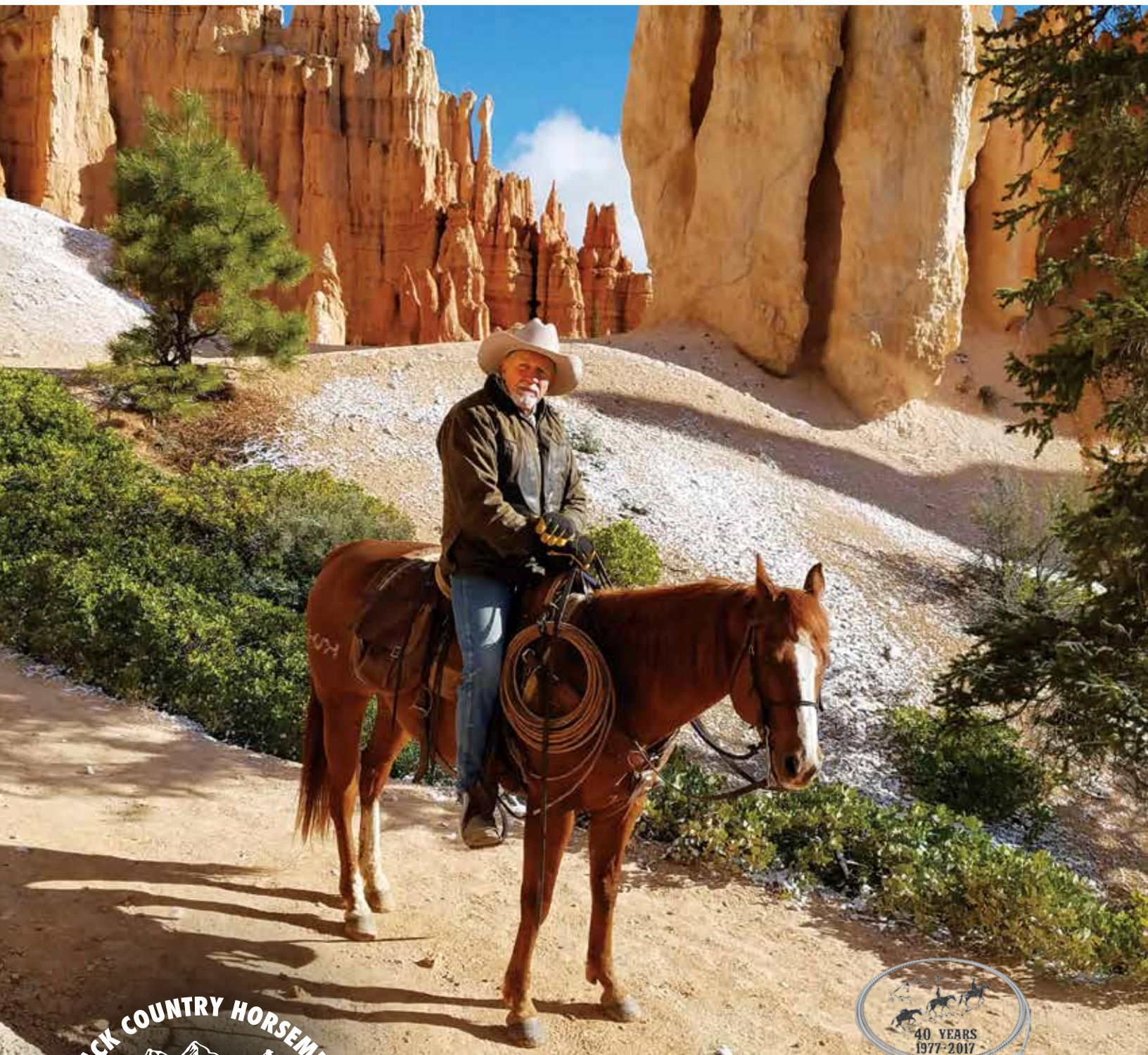


# The Trailhead News

Vol. 42 Issue 6

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

November/December 2017



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN  
OF WASHINGTON



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



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*Cover Photo: Bruce Boblet and his horse Levi greet the snow-dusted dawn in Bryce Canyon, May 2017. Photo by Sue Boblet. See article on page 17.*

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

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

Name	Chapter
<b>Lifetime Members</b>	
Mitch Baird .....	IND
Amanda Biles .....	NIS
Trygve Culp .....	OKA
Dave Jackson .....	PSR
Heather Moorman .....	PSR
Jim Murphy .....	OLY
Bob Shonka .....	IND
Teri Starke .....	IND
Carol D Wilcox .....	WEN
Teunis Wyers .....	MTA
Pat Wyers .....	MTA

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

<b>2017 Annual Meeting Head Table</b>	
Danny Garner .....	YAK

<b>2017 Benefactor Level</b>	
Tamara King & Eric Leung .....	TRA
Caleb Canby .....	MET

<b>2017 Patron Level</b>	
Greg Johnston & Cathy Johnson .....	NIS
Joanne Lacy & Dale Bamford .....	PIE
George Michel .....	IND
Barbara Woo & Scott Bauer .....	CAS
Patricia Yust .....	WHA

<b>2017 Sustaining Level</b>	
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Sandi Berg .....	CCR
Robert & Sheila Blakely .....	PIE
Garry & Penelope Booker .....	IND
Ron & Marty Celestres .....	TAH
Danny & Jeanie Chappel .....	RRR
Leslie Coey .....	IND
Missy Day .....	TAH
Patrick Dolan .....	MTS
Jack Duffy & Eileen Kiera .....	WHA
Kevin Ellison .....	MET
Robert & Celeste Eversole .....	NOR
Bruce Foreman .....	NOR
Dawn Graham .....	PEN
Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley .....	PIE
Mary Kane .....	TAH
Karapostolos Family .....	IND
Dorothy & Larry Kehres .....	PIE
Sally & Don Laib .....	PIE
Fred & Lori Lennox .....	GRA
Ed & Teri Letcher .....	TAH

Name	Chapter
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Mary McIntyre Lee .....	IND
Paul Mellick .....	RRR
Kim Merrick .....	TAH
Thomas & Kristine Moran .....	GRA
Russell & Cynthia Morse .....	WEN
John Myers .....	RRR
Al & Marcy Norrbom .....	TAH
James & Carol Oakes .....	IND
Mary & Dennis Owens .....	GRA
Joann Reider .....	TAH
Kathy Russo .....	IND
Bob Showalter .....	RRR
Coco Spurway .....	NOR
Gene & Mary Sutliff .....	TRA
Darrell Wallace & Kristy Stender .....	NOR
Judy & Roy Warnick .....	CCR
Greg & Brenda Wiebe .....	MTA
Joann Yost .....	GRA

<b>2017 Contributing Level</b>	
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Jannine Allen & Danny Garner .....	YAK
Andy & Debbie Sue Bales .....	TAH
Sandi Berg .....	CCR
Beverley Bingaman .....	RRR
Gene Brent .....	TAH
Heather, Fred & Gillian Brown .....	WHA
Gary & Kathy Collins .....	MTS
Thomas & Sandra Eddy Family .....	IND
Ken & Pam Evans .....	MTS
Marianne & Dave Finrow .....	IND
David & Ellen Foscue .....	GRA
Jack & Laurie Gillette .....	PIE
Bob Gish .....	NOR
Paul & Kathy Gjeltten .....	IND
Nancy Groff .....	RRR
Rhonda Gunnells .....	IND
Ken & Diane Hasbargen .....	TAH
Butch & Jaime Havens .....	IND
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Ted & Irene Hulbert Family .....	IND
Sharon & Jack Jenson .....	TAH
Regina & David Johnston .....	MET
Tony Karniss .....	LEW
Nancy & Bob Lee .....	TAH
Teren & Norman MacLeod .....	BUC
Dave Peterson & Kris Lenke .....	BUC
Gail & David Rase .....	BUC
Marc Reinertson .....	PEN

Name	Chapter
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Len & Kathy Rolph .....	MTA
Joe & Marcia Russell .....	IND
Nancy Rust .....	MTS
Jim Sammons .....	PIE
Casey Simonson .....	TRA
Alyssa Slough .....	TAH
Gerald & Margaret Throop .....	MTA
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Rick & Phoebe Trocano .....	IND
Cathy & Bennet Upper .....	MET
Heidi Weston .....	MET
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!





## We've Had Quite a Year

By Kathy Young, BCHW President

I have been considering all that our members and Chapters have accomplished this year, and I'd like to thank a few individuals along with every one of you for continuing to support our mission in each of its aspects. BCHW volunteers, all of you, are some of the most dedicated people in any of the recreation groups in which I have been in contact. That said, here are some thoughts and some thanks.

### People

You may or may not have heard that Heather Moorman, our BCHW Treasurer for the past 13 years has chosen to step down. This has been a really big job. Heather will not be easily replaced. I want to sincerely thank Heather for all that she has done for us as Membership Chairman. Heather managed the membership data, new enrollments, and renewals, while also pursuing a demanding professional career. She is not going away of course; I don't think the Winery Ride could run without her. We will see her out on the trail. *Thank you, Heather.*

Thanks are owed to Bernie Stratton, who has stepped down from his position as Public Lands Chairman. Bernie has been a real support for me, his energy and his network of people kept him very busy in that role. Bernie put on a lot of miles for us as PL Chairman, attending meetings all over the state while continuing to run his personal business. *Thank you, Bernie.*

Public Lands is a primary and critical piece of the BCHW mission, so I am pleased to announce that Pete Erben has accepted the position of Public Lands Chairman. Pete is retired from a career with the U.S. Forest Service and is a participant in the BCHA

Western States Committee conference calls. Pete brings a depth of knowledge of Forest Service practices to the position. He will be a valuable asset to our organization as Public Lands Chairman. *Thank you, Pete.*

I also want to thank Jeff Chapman, BCHW's Legislative Chairman. Jeff is somehow tireless in keeping track of issues that can affect BCHW. He has written several comment letters for BCHW this year, and although these letters often go out with only my signature, Jeff should be recognized and get credit for the composition. *Thank you, Jeff.*

### Looking back

I often look back at old issues of Trailhead News before I write this column. I read what past Presidents have had on their minds and boy howdy did I strike it rich this month. Shoot, I could have simply asked to re-run Bob Gish's "Challenges, Challenges" column from Jan/Feb 2013. In that article, Bob wrote about working as a team within our mission, which was epitomized with our 2017 Andrews Creek Project. That team reopened some trail that has not been stock accessible since 2003.

Another challenge that Bob mentioned in that column was fire. At that time he was specifically referring to the Table Mountain Fire and the fires at Haney Meadows and the Ken Wilcox Horse Camp. He challenged BCHW to restore those trails. Well, folks, we met that challenge and kept going. BCHW has developed a model to follow that will continue to work for us as we get out and restore trails. We will continue to meet the challenge.

*continued on page 4*

### 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.



# Membership Development in the New Year

By Ken Carmichael, Membership Development Chair

**A**s we approach a new year two things are happening, one we will have some new officers, and second, we are approaching membership renewals. Both are important aspects of a strong and productive Back Country Horsemen.

BCHW is putting renewed emphasis on developing and sharing creative ways to attract new members and retaining current members. This is available to all chapters in the Membership Development Program.

Several chapters have started to take advantage of this program to develop their membership. How do you do this? It is simple. Just contact Ken Carmichael at 509-466-2225 or kcar-michael2225@gmail.com. We will set a time when I can meet with you to review the program and develop a strategy.

As new chapter officers are elected, it is an excellent time to review your membership program and take positive steps to strengthen your membership. 🐾

## 2018 Leadership Training Set for January 20

By Kim Merrick, BCHW Education Chair

**B**CHW annual Leadership Training will be held January 20th in Ellensburg. The Armory (next to the Kittitas Valley Event Center) was chosen for its central location, space, and equipment available, and its lower cost.

Attendance this year will be important for all officers whether you are experienced in your role or new to your role. We will all be learning something about the new BCHW membership platform. The Armory will open at 9:00 for sign in and Welcome. Train-



ing classes will begin at 9:30. All officers, chapter leaders, and interested members are urged to attend, especially Treasurers and membership officers. Classes include Robert's Rules and Running Meetings, Grant Writing and Managing, Trail Bosses, Writing Comment Letters, and Volunteer Hours. Leadership Training will conclude at 3:30 after a Vision/Discussion

session with all interested members. Please mark your 2018 BCHW Calendar for January 20, and come to Ellensburg. 🐾

## We've Had Quite a Year

*continued from page 3*

### More about FIRE

I had a thought-provoking conversation recently with a DNR employee. It was specifically about the Jolly Mt. Fire, but also included other fires that have impacted us this year. The perspective that I came away with was this; in Washington State, the 2017 fire season was actually not worse than last year. That may be, but boy oh boy was the talk and chatter and AWARENESS bigger. The impact of smoke and ash on the west side of the state, including the larger metropolitan areas got a lot more people's attention. Let's hope that that awareness can keep a good active conversation going about the bud-

get, forest management, and accessibility.

I wish I had space here to recognize every chapter project that I have seen or heard of this year. I wish I could individually thank every member for the time and effort that you are spending that goes to support the BCHW mission. Facebook has been my connection to many of your accomplishments. Looking at the pictures of the places that BCHW chapters are riding and the projects that they are doing just makes my day. Keep the pictures coming, and write an article for the Trailhead News! Until we meet again, Happy Trails! 🐾



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

By Lynn Wilhelm-Howell, 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 25 words or less, give an opening statement telling why this person is deserving of special, statewide recognition for this particular 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:  
 Lynn Wilhelm-Howell • 20059 SE 127th St, Issaquah, WA 98027  
 Questions: [redboots4u2@gmail.com](mailto:redboots4u2@gmail.com) or 206-498-4622

**Must be received before Feb 8th, 2018. Awards are presented at the BCHW General Meeting in March.**

# 4 Things That Can Save Your Life When Riding Horses

By Robert Eversole, TrailMeister

**M**y summer of trail rides and horse camping was wonderful until it wasn't. You might have heard that I took a tumble recently. It's true. I was riding in the Three Sisters Wilderness in central Oregon when I joined the unplanned dismount club. Although I don't remember all of it, I got to visit the hospital ER, met some great doctors, toured the surgery, and now I have a shiny new shoulder! Fun times.

I can't tell you with certainty what went wrong, although I think it was bees. One moment I was in the saddle taking pictures and the next my head was impacting a tree followed by proof that Newton's law of gravity is true. As I'm finding that narcotic-fueled dreams are anything but pleasant, I've had plenty of time to ponder what went right during my misadventure.



## Riding with a Partner.

The first thing that I did right was riding with a partner. Kim McCarell, the author of the series Northwest Horse Trail Books, was my Oregon riding companion and guide as we rode and horse camped around the Three Sisters area. Kim was not only excellent trail company; she gave me a second set of eyes on my injury and was able to take care of my mule as we made our way off the mountain.

Had Kim not been nearby to help I might still be out there. She helped get my floppy arm stabilized and watched me like a hawk during the long slow walk out. She even arranged transportation to the emergency room while we were still on the trail.

Your life may depend on it, so choose your riding partner wisely.

## Carrying 1st Aid Kits and Having the Knowledge to Use Them.

The second thing I did right was carry a first aid kit and have the knowledge to use it. When we found that I couldn't move my arm, we were able to stabilize it with the first aid kits that we both carried. Between the two kits, we were able to get an oddly floppy arm stabilized enough that I could make my way off the mountain.

The emergency room staff was quite impressed with our efforts, and the ER nurses made a point of saying we did a good



job of improvising in using a belt to immobilize my shoulder. They also made a point of mentioning that most people don't know how to help themselves in an emergency.

The incident might have had a different outcome if we hadn't carried 1st Aid supplies and taken the time and effort to learn how to use them, before the ride.

Having the knowledge to use a first aid kit, and improvise if needed, is just as important as carrying the kit.

## Carrying a Communications Device.



Being able to call for help is a good thing. Having good communications is the third thing we did right. Kim and I both carried tools to contact help in an emergency. We used them that day. Between the two of us, we had cell phones, a personal locator beacon, and a Garmin InReach. With these tools at her disposal, Kim arranged for emergency transportation and even let my wife know that there had been an accident. I was awfully grateful that I had options other than sitting on the side of a hill hoping that someone would come along.

It's important to carry communication devices that work for an area you're riding. Cell phones don't work everywhere, and not all messengers are created equally. I've tried others, and I'm very glad that I could rely on my Garmin InReach.

*continued on page 7*



## 4 Things That Can Save Your Life When Riding Horses

*continued from page 6*

### Wearing a Helmet.

Lastly, I was wearing a helmet. If scars are sexy, my helmet should be in a pinup calendar. According to my helmet, my head hit a tree on my way to the ground. I certainly don't remember it. Having a multitude of plates and pins in my shoulder is plenty. I'm glad I don't have shiny hardware in my head as well.

If you choose to wear a helmet (and I hope that you do) make sure that it's ASTM / SEI certified for equestrian use. My Troxel

Sierra model took the beating so that my head didn't. I guess it's time for a new helmet.

Well, that's about it for now. As you can see I'm still typing, slowly and with one hand but typing! I'll be back in the saddle as soon as the docs give me the OK. For more trail riding tips and the world's largest guide to horse trails and camps, visit [www.TrailMeister.com](http://www.TrailMeister.com). 🐾



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## RTP Grant Aids BCHW Trail Work Efforts

By Darrell Wallace, BCHA Director

**R**ecreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant 14-2061 began November 1st, 2015, and ended October 31, 2017. It seems appropriate to report on what we accomplished with that, although final reimbursements were still being received at press time.

Project Liaison Jason Ridlon headed the Kittitas Project, maintaining 40 miles of trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. He and his crew worked those crosscuts hard, using stock to reach far into the Cascade Mountains (see associated article).

Doug Stewart and his Northeast Chapter worked with WTA and PNTA crews to replace five puncheon bridges on the Thunder Creek Trail just outside of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. This was preparation for the 2017 State-Wide Work Party (SWWP), which unfortunately had to be canceled due to wildfire, but the Northeast Chapter continues to work in that area as fires permit.

Deb Wesselius and the Lewis County Chapter cleared about 181 miles of several trails in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), including 32 feet of turnpike and 28 feet of puncheon. Several crews worked numerous weekends on Goat Cr, Packwood Lk, Green River, Lily Basin, Jug Lk, Cowlitz, Kincaid Lk, Carlton Cr, Walupt Lk, Coleman Weed Patch, Klickitat, Three Peaks, Clear Fork and Dark Meadow trails, plus Cody and Keenes Horse Camps. They were also able to repair two FS roads that were washed out and were needed to gain access to many of those

trails, and to the Pacific Crest Trail (see associated article).

Tom Mix led the Peninsula Chapter in maintaining 596 miles of trail on the Olympic Peninsula, logging out Wilderness and non-Wilderness as well as building 759 feet of puncheon and 38 feet of turnpike as needed.

Grays Harbor Chapter, with Project Liaison Pete Erben, continued to open up the historic miner's trail up the West Fork of the Humptulips River, including explosive blasting of a rock face blocking part of the trail.

Dave Sunde and the Okanogan Valley Chapter used much of their allocation to hire professional trail workers to improve drainage and maintain the Carter Mountain Wildlife Area Trails and generously donated unused funds to other projects in the grant.

Rich Ruhl, project liaison for Skagit Chapter, has overseen the placement of several tons of gravel and lots of footrills as they hardened 4.5 miles of trail on the Les Hilde trail system, using two gravel totes purchased by the grant.

For reasons beyond their control, projects requested by Buckhorn Range and Olympic chapters could not be completed, but their unused funds were effectively utilized by other projects. Nearly all projects purchased tools with grant funds and will use those tools for trail maintenance for many years to come. And BCHW is able to use a small percentage of the grant to reduce operating costs that support our trail maintenance efforts. All in all, a successful grant operation! 🐾

## BCHW Joe Watt Canyon Ride Opportunity

Proposals from BCHW chapters or independent members seeking to organize and become the beneficiary of the proceeds from the Joe Watt Canyon Ride should direct their proposal to VP Dave Sunde by December 2, (Board of Directors meeting). The proceeds of the ride are specifically earmarked for trail projects. For information or questions contact Kathy Young.

**president@bchw.org • 206.551.7824**





# Trail Work and Partnerships Alpine Lakes Wilderness

By Jason Ridlon, Director, Independent Members



**W**hat a Back Country Horsemen Summer! For the past two springs, I have chaired the Joe Watt Canyon Ride in May. This very popular ride brings riders from around the state to enjoy the splendor of Kittitas County in the spring. June found me in the Methow Valley helping friends from the Methow Valley chapter on National Trails Day logging War Creek in the Twisp River Drainage. The end of June into July found me working with BCHW members and local Outfitters on the BCHW HotShot Crew in the Pasayten Wilderness this was a weeklong project that took a considerable amount of time to prepare for. Leaving this found me in

the final stages of planning the BCHW State-Wide Work Party 5 [SWWP 5] planned for August 5th located 95 miles north of Spokane with 60+ members planning to attend. Unfortunately, this event was canceled due to a forest fire when I was loaded and in Spokane. So how did I find time to work in my local Cle Elum Ranger District performing trail work funded by RTP Grant 14-2061M? Well, it was tough! The way I see it the only way to conduct the much-needed work was to work with our other trail users to get some of the needed work done. I had made a commitment to Mountain to Sound Green Ways to pack their trail crew in and out of the west end of Waptus Lake. This is 15-miles one way. I called my friends at Three Peaks Outfitters and asked if they would be willing to help? With excitement, they agreed to pack the Mountain to Sound Greenway trail crew into their work sight. Then when Jeff Leisy called from the Cle Elum Forest Service looking for some pack support and labor to help remove a large log that fell on a Bridge on Spinola Creek, I found myself heading to Waptus Lake with Darrell Gunnells arriving well after midnight with loaded pack stock. BCHW has a history of working with Jeff and with partners like that you want to help so making a short-notice ride late into the night did not seem like work. With the SWWP 5 canceled we were able to make an overnight trip



*continued on page 12*



# A Couple of Challenging Packing Requests

## Hauling explosives into the wilderness

PHOTO BY REBECCA MEYERS



*Rider with pack horse on Pacific Crest Trail*

By "Doc" Wesselius, BCHW Safety Officer

**M**aintenance for isolated wilderness trails can be challenging. To start, remote trailheads and accessible cleared trails are necessary for packstock crews to haul supplies and tools to wilderness worksites. Secondly, transport for a wilderness trail project requires all-encompassing planning and organization because of load variability requirements. Lewis County Chapter's packers were involved in two projects planned by USFS – Cowlitz Valley Ranger District late this summer that epitomized the daunting undertakings it takes to keep trails open and safe.

Maintenance of the Pacific Crest Trail across the Packwood Glacier Basin below Old Snowy Mountain in the Goat Rock Wilderness has been a test for trail crews for several decades. Originally the trail across the glacier was opened every year by USFS trail crews cutting a shelf in the ice to facilitate a safer pathway for packstrings furnishing supplies for fire lookouts. By the mid-1970s the glacier had receded and a talus slope,

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PHOTO BY REBECCA MEYERS



*Pacific Crest Trail across Packwood Glacier Basin*

PHOTO BY CAROLYN STELLA



*Pam's packstring loaded with explosives*



## A Couple of Challenging Packing Requests

*continued from page 10*

strewn with boulders and basalt cliffs, was exposed. USFS trail crews built an alternate route, dubbed “Knife’s Edge,” to circumvent the dangerous trail across the basin. The alternate route on Old Snowy Mountain had its challenges too. The higher elevation narrow trail, essentially a three-foot pathway of flat rocks with steep drop-offs on both sides, experienced

delayed snowmelt and was often shrouded in fog and clouds.

For three years the chapter’s packers hauled in supplies and trail tools for Pacific Crest Trail Association trail crews conducting a project to reestablish the original trail across the basin and make it a safer route. However, a rock cliff needed to be blasted to widen the trail. Joe Chenier and Pam Swigert

PHOTO BY LANCE HOLT



*Explosives and rock drill for Lily Basin Trail project.*

PHOTO BY LANCE HOLT



*Ray Holdt packing supplies for USFS blasting crew.*

answered the USFS request for packers to haul explosives six miles to a base camp for a USFS blasting crew. The next day after the delivery the packers rode back to experience, from a safe distance, the two gigantic explosions that echoed through the Cascade Mountains.

The second packing challenge, also in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, was another USFS request for packstock to haul explosives. This trail job also required a seventy-five pound rock drill to be delivered to the worksite. Removing a massive rock slide in Lily Basin that blocked the trail to Heart Lake for several years went through the same approval and clearance process as the Pacific Crest Trail project. It took two days for Lance and Ray Holdt to load up and haul the USFS blasting crew and its gear in five miles to a base camp.

PHOTO BY LANCE HOLT




*Slide over Lily Basin Trail*

PHOTO BY DEAN ROBERSON



*Lily Basin Trail after blasting*

After the fire season, which occupied USFS personnel during the summer, the blasting projects were squeezed into the USFS trail maintenance schedule before snow prevented access to the worksites. The USFS blasting crew’s supplies for the Lily Basin Trail were delivered after a skiff of snowfall; however, Leonard Wright with Gary and Norma Wright were able to pack them out before a heavy snowfall.

The use of explosives and a rock drill for trail maintenance involved monumental USFS wilderness policy arrangements and a mountain of paperwork. The packers were elated to be involved in the two challenging packing requests that helped keep trails open for recreation in the wilderness. 



## Trail Work and Partnerships Alpine Lakes Wilderness

*continued from page 9*

into Deep Lake Basin to drop off tools so BCHW members from Pierce County Chapter could perform work on the Vicente Basin trail this would have completed my obligations to the grant had the Jolly Mountain Fire not spoiled their plans to conduct this project. The summer of fire! After Three Peak Outfitters dropped off the Mountain to Sound Greenway crew. Salmon La Sac being completely closed to the public from the Jolly Mountain Fire hampered the task of removing their tools. Again working closely with our partners at the Cle Elum Forest Service it was determined we would be in no danger to go around closures and make the 15-mile ride into the wilderness to remove the large

tool cache. This was a ride that will not be forgotten. There is something about going around road closures and riding into a closed wilderness, it was very quiet, seeing no one but John Morrow, wilderness ranger removing trash from campsites at the head end of Waptus Lake. The morning was as still as it gets, the lake was like a mirror. The return was not so pleasant, smoke laid in so heavy you could not see the short distance across the lake, it remained like this for better than 12-miles to the trailhead. The theme here is without partnerships, and a willingness to work with others trail work will not get done. 2

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# Why A Pasayten HotShot Crew?



By Jason Ridlon, Director, Independent Members

In the summer of 2016 BCHW conducted State-Wide Work Party #4 [SWWP 4] - this was an amazing event, fun had by all, lots of trail work completed, new friends and partnerships made. But yet as the event organizer, it seemed that as an organization possibly we could still do more? Past president Trygve Culp and I talked about the notion of holding an event that filled the gap between what we now know as the State-Wide Work Party that allows several members to ride and return to a central camping location and something that would conduct work far beyond the abilities to ride back to a vehicle supported base camp. What would this look like? This crew would have to be able to fully self-support themselves in the backcountry and still conduct trail work. How would you put together such a crew, and where would you go?

The Pasayten was chosen, due to its earlier snowmelt out and the overwhelming amount of work that needed to be done. This Wilderness has seen its fair share of forest fires and has received little in the way of efforts to re-open these once-popular recreational system trails. Working with the Methow Valley Chapter and local Outfitters, they identified Crystal Lake Trail #517, Peepsight Trail #525, Colman Ridge Trail #505 and Andrews Creek Trail #504 as trails that need work. By needing work, I mean impassible to both stock and many cases hikers. The only trail that had been cleared after the fires was the #504 Andrews Creek Trail, and it needed three puncheons replaced and one repaired. Okay, we now have the perfect place to further our mission statement. Due to distance, these trails would require overnight stays and the puncheons would require up to 14 miles of one-way packing to get needed bridge materials to project locations.

BCHW has an amazing amount of talent and passion throughout its membership to conduct such an event. To get the needed work done on Crystal Lake Trail, it made more sense not to have a large camp full of stock needing care. So packers from Lewis County came to fully support both Pierce and Methow Valley Chapter members in clearing this trail. Not all things went as

planned on Colman Ridge Trail: this crew, made up of Northeast Chapter, Lewis County Chapter, and Independent members ran into a snag. The trail was so full of choked timber we could not access graze for our stock, and that forced us to commute over six miles back to the Darwood Corrals until we could establish a spike camp for half our crew to remain on site so they would not be making the long ride after working 10 hour days in the 90 plus degree heat. Peepsight #525 was not without its challenges: this crew lost two members that had to be transferred to our puncheon project, leaving only a crew of three to find and clear a trail that has not been touched since the 2009 fires. This crew was made up of Skagit and Tahoma Chapter members. All three logging crews did an amazing amount of work, but all three had their challenges.

*continued on page 14*





## Why A Pasayten HotShot Crew?

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None of these trails were completely logged during this event, but the three trails received 1208 hours of volunteer hours that removed approximately 585 trees. Amazing! How do you pack 65 4' bridge planks 12-14 miles into the wilderness? This was not done without its challenges. First, because it's Wilderness – the heartbeat rule is something to consider. Second, feed for approximately 20 pack stock animals is a challenge. Third, to top it off, a major slide that plugs 300 yards of the trail with logs is another huge problem.



This is where partnerships come into play. The Forest Service pushed hard for the reasonable use of chainsaws in the wilderness to clear that slide of logs that would have been dangerous and time-consuming to remove with cross cut saws. Whatcom County Chapter packed lumber from the Darwood corrals to the drop area seven miles in. Steve and Jess Darwood from Wilderness Outfitters came forward with both wranglers and ten mules to pack the lumber another seven miles to the last puncheon project site. Then Pacific Northwest Trail coordinator Lewis Trout came to work with Inland Chapter to construct puncheons as lumber was dropped. Feed for ten pack mules and saddle stock ran short on our relay pack so Lewis County's Crystal Lake packers had to be pulled to run a feed drop so we would not have an interruption to our progress being made on the puncheons. This project was successfully finished with all puncheons replaced and repaired.

This project did not have a leader: it was made up of several leaders, members and partners passionate and driven to keep our recreational trails open to all users. This project did not have a single sponsoring chapter - it had BCHW members as well as partners all sharing in a common goal of keeping our recreational trails open to all users.

It should be noted that this project was also successful due to a grant that was awarded by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance [NWSA]. Our grant of nearly \$8,000 was matched by our labor and other contributions to a tune of about \$61,431.00. 🐾

## 2018 BCHW

## Membership Application

All adult members need to sign the form. Chapter Members: contact your Chapter for an application.

Independent Members mail to: BCHW ATTN: Membership, P.O. Box 1132, Ellensburg, WA 98926-1132

I would like to help preserve the Horsemen's rights to use horses on public lands.

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Do you want to be a volunteer? ☐ Yes ☐ No What would you like to volunteer for? \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this application I agree to receive notices from BCHW by electronic transmission at the above email address.

## State membership for 2018 calendar year

Family Membership \$ 54 \_\_\_\_\_

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(Includes Family or Single Membership)

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please do not mail me The Trailhead News, I will read it online at the BCHW website.

## Liability Release &amp; Notices

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children. Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders, and spectators, and also recognizing the fact that Back Country Horsemen of Washington, including chapters, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses taking part in Trail Rides or other BCHW functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages, which might occur to me, my minor children or horses.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

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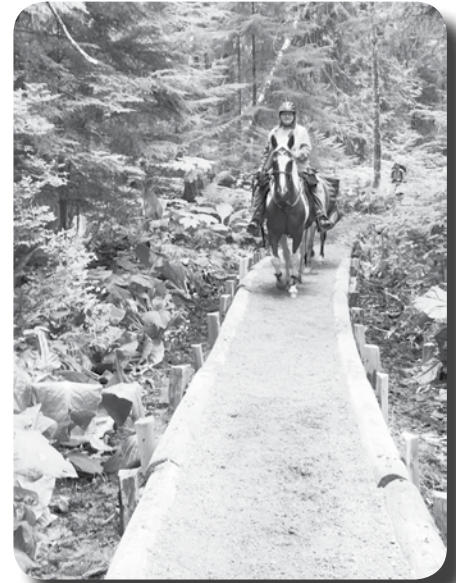
# Traildusters-Cascade Horse Club Work Party August 11 & 12, 2017



*Bridget Wisniewski, USFS representative, hauling logs on toter.*



*Daryn Latham setting and staking new logs.*



*Audrey Gunderson on finished turnpike repair.*

By Rich Guthrie, Traildusters Chapter


**LOCATION:** North Fork Sauk River Trail # 649 beginning at the Sloan Creek Campground

**S**ummary: This project was planned to rehabilitate a turnpike located about a half mile up the trail from Sloan Creek Campground. Turnpikes are for improving trails across boggy areas and are a more permanent fix and easier to maintain than puncheon bridges. Small logs are placed end to end in lines about three feet apart and are held in place by digging a trench about as deep as half the diameter of the log for it to lie in and then driving stakes on the outside of each log. Then the area between the logs is filled with rock and gravel. A ditch is dug on the outside of the logs parallel to them to drain away water. Some turnpikes require a culvert to drain water from the high side to the low side. This turnpike had its logs replaced 13 years ago and needed redoing. Ten Traildusters, one retired Trailduster, and one Cascade Horse Club member participated. We were supervised and helped by an employee of the Darrington Ranger District, USFS.

On Friday the 11th work began by splitting 32 cedar stakes. Then while Bridget Wisniewski, the USFS project director, transported 8-foot side logs two at a time to the turnpike on her gas driven walk behind toter several workers began digging out the old rotten side logs from the turnpike being repaired. The new side logs were placed and secured with the stakes that had been cut and moved to the site with a pack horse. On Saturday the 12th Daryn Latham finished placing and staking the side logs while Cliff Brown and Bridget dug out and lowered the steel culvert into a position to be more effective. Then with five pack stock making

a total of 44 individual round trips packers moved 6,400 lbs. of crushed rock to renew the turnpike bed. At the trail head, the crew removed dead limbs from trees in the parking area and collected large rocks for filling voids in the turnpike bed.

Audrey Gunderson cooked the salmon, and everyone else provided side dishes and desserts for a grand meal Friday evening. Cheryl Johnson fed us an exceptional breakfast Saturday morning.

Participants included Audrey Gunderson packing gravel and cooking, Marykay Els shoveling out old logs and packing gravel, Cheryl Johnson packing gravel, cleaning corrals and cooking, Doug Barber packing gravel and cleaning corrals, Daryn Latham digging out old logs, placing new logs and packing stakes and gravel (3 pack horses), Cathy Nelson digging out old logs, holding and unloading pack animals and hand packing rock, Cliff Brown digging out and reburying the culvert and loading gravel into the panniers ("grueling work"), Laura Brown filling and weighing gravel buckets and loading gravel into the panniers, Rich Guthrie splitting stakes, digging out old logs, placing new logs, unloading pack stock, and hand packing rock, Louise Guthrie loading logs onto the toter, filling gravel buckets, and holding pack stock, Scott Bauer, sharpening stakes and loading logs and rock onto the toter, and Gene Wheeler, a long-time past member, unloading pack stock, hand-packing rock and smoothing out gravel. Work hours included 46 basic and 18.5 skilled. 



# BCH of Washington Packing for the PCTA Summer 2017

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH GUTHRIE



*Todd Churchill and Bill Toth headed out from Suiattle Trailhead.*

By Rich Guthrie, Traildusters Chapter

In the fall of 2003, there was an exceptionally severe rainstorm in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. One of the massively flooding rivers was the Suiattle (pronounced sue at' el), which originates on the east side of 10,628 foot Glacier Peak, flows north and then west in a narrow canyon. The Suiattle River Road follows the north side of the west flowing portion of the river for 23 miles and is a trailhead access to the Pacific Crest Scenic Trail (PCST) in the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Hikers, climbers, horse riders, and hunters use this access extensively. The storm washed out the road in several places and washed out a major bridge across Downey Creek, a tributary of the Suiattle River. Due to funding problems and lawsuits by a chapter of the Audubon Society the road and bridge repair was not completed until the fall of 2014. So there were 12 years of fallen logs and other trail deterioration on the Suiattle River Trail and adjoining trails from lack of access for maintenance. During 2015 and 2016 Traildusters Chapter BCHW with the help of Whatcom County, Skagit County, and Pierce County Chapters supported work done by the Washington Trails Association and the Pacific Crest Trail Association by packing in supplies for projects to open up trails to access the PCT in the Glacier Peak area. This summer the PCTA organized three-week long work projects to log out and cut brush on the PCT south from where the Suiattle River Trail joins the PCT near Canyon Creek. Organized by Daryn Latham and Darryl Weidkamp, who are members of both Traildusters and Skagit Chapters, and Rich Guthrie of Traildusters work tools, kitchen supplies, and food was packed in for these events. Garbage and supplies were packed in and out as needed. The first week a round trip of 14 miles with 12 riding and pack stock occurred. The next week involved six riding pack and stock on a 26-mile roundtrip. The third week seven riding and pack stock made a 26-mile roundtrip. And on the final week, 9 riding and pack stock went in empty and packed everything out on a 26-mile roundtrip.

None of the packers worked every weekend to avoid burn-

out. The typical scenario was for everyone to arrive Friday evening for dinner, get up at 5:00 AM, eat breakfast, pack stock and be on the trail by 7:00 AM; returning late Saturday afternoon for another meal and driving home. Meals were provided by Traildusters Linda Karman, Rich Guthrie, and Louise Guthrie. In addition to Daryn and Darryl, stock packers working on this project were Todd Churchill, Curtis Isaacson, Keith Swain, and Bill Toth from Traildusters, Fred West from Skagit County Chapter, Rocky Leavitt, Roger Nelson, Rodney Vanderssypen, and Erin Vanderssypen from Whatcom County Chapter. This project involved 126 basic hours of work and 110 skilled hours of work not including travel time. About ten miles of the PCT were opened up by this project. There still several miles of trail needing work along the north and west sides of Glacier Peak. This trail work used to be done by the Forest Service, but they are grossly underfunded now. 🐾

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH GUTHRIE



*Bill Toth, Keith Swain, and Daryn Latham headed up Suiattle River Trail with PCTA tools and supplies.*

# A Trip To The Canyonlands

PHOTO BY JERI JO WOLANSKI



*A resting place at noon near Three Sisters monument in a day of following sand dunes to desert springs, Anasazi ruins, and a burial hooghan in Navajo country.*

By Cori Halverson

**L**one Eagle Ranch family & friends took a ride in the Utah desert and Idaho mountains this spring. Bruce & Sue Boblet's family includes the 5th generation on their ranch in Silverdale, WA. They are known for their fun horse adventures, and they generously share their love of horses and beautiful country. This spring they loaded up the horses and traveled to Idaho and Utah.

We rode five days and spent evenings at our campfire with Dineh guides in Monument Valley. Purple Sage and some of the cactus were in flower on the red sand. We had a lightning-thunder-wind-hail-rain day on the trail. We saw it coming in the sky over that big open space of red sandstone monuments, and we took shelter in the cliffs from the worst of it for a few minutes; the horses behaved very well, none startled by what nature can bring. We had bouquets of N'd'gilly-tso—Big Sunflower, well worth dismounting to harvest for protection from lightning strikes. The three cliffs that made the walls of our box canyon camp were the frame for a starlit sky every night until the full moon showed up and outshone the stars. We rode to Anasazi ruins, pictographs, desert springs, places of birth and death – a birthing tree and a burial Hogan, and high places that show why people have chosen to make this desert their home for centuries.

Our next ride was in the slot canyons of the Paria River, from Copper Cloud Ranch. Sandy, Girl, Rex, and Levi followed the trail left by centuries of water, narrow, deep and winding between close, touchable walls of white, blue, pink & orange.

We loaded the horses and left the warm days of Paria, climbing 3,000' to much colder weather at Bryce Canyon. Snow blew into the Canyon the day before we rode there, so

the next morning found us on horseback watching the sun come up on the snow-dusted hoo-doo to the sound of our horses' hooves on the canyon trail.

We got to spend another day on horseback in the Sawtooth Range of Idaho, riding the edge of Soldier Creek running full of melted snow. The horses were at home here, having spent several seasons in these mountains under Bruce & Sue herding cattle.

Watching the horses together in the sunset at the corral on I-84 Pendleton, Oregon, we knew we would have a lot of fine, red dirt to wash out of the trailers and trucks when we get home, and we'll still be smiling. 🐾

PHOTO BY SUE BOBLET



*Lone Eagle Ranch riders at Monument Valley May 2017: Sue Boblet on Levi, Cori Halverson on Charlie, Bruce Boblet on Dan.*



# 16th Annual BCHW Halloween & Winery Ride

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY JIM THODE





# Scavenger Hunt by Ponderosa BCH



By Ken Carmichael, Director Ponderosa BCH Chapter

**O**n Saturday, September 30, the Ponderosa chapter held its 2nd annual scavenger hunt in Riverside State Park near Spokane as our fundraiser.

This is a somewhat unique event, which is gaining popularity. We nearly doubled our attendance with many returning riders. We had riders from Idaho, Oregon and the west side of Washington in addition to our local riders. I understand that the equestrian campground was full.

This is how the ride works. We have a defined area where participants ride in a spider web of trails. The day before we put out 40 items for them to find. They are hanging from the trees and are such items as a hoof pick, magazine, pen, CD, VCR tape, hat, etc. Next, to each item, we hang a number. Each item is valued from 1 to 40. The higher valued items are more difficult to find, but all are along a trail.

Riders ride in groups of 1, 2 or 3 trying to find the items. When they find one, they take one of the slips of paper next to the item (we put 100 numbers there, i.e., number 15) and leave the item hanging in the tree. Everyone is back to registration at 1:00 when we count the numbers in the bag they have. The ones with the highest count win.

Also we have a chili feed, raffles, door prizes, live auction, crazy hat contest, guess the number of items in a gallon jar (if they complete our survey) and music. This year we had 29 volunteers, and as the event grows next year, we will need more. Tuesday,

before the event, we have a potluck for the volunteers, and we do a dress rehearsal. Everyone knows their assignments (multiple in some cases) and the overall operation so that they can function without supervision and provide maximum support to our participants. We are looking to include students as volunteers that need to complete some volunteer work. The key to success is that every participant feels that they are well cared for from the parking committee, registration, outriders, finish line and staff around the PBCH booth, prizes and food. We leave no one confused as to what to do or where to go.

In addition, we have tremendous support from the community providing prizes. Those that provide \$100 or more have a scavenger hunt location named after them and their banner displayed at registration. We also mention all sponsors in a welcoming letter and as the prizes are awarded. A handwritten thank you note is sent, and this year we are sending them pictures of their prize being awarded and their banner. The chapter photographer has a busy day.

We look at this event not only as a fundraiser but a way to get the Back Country Horsemen name out in front of the public. Our advertising and the booth at the event promote BCH.

We have scheduled the ride again for Saturday, September 29, 2018. We will be encouraging other groups to include the scavenger hunt as part of their group rides. Of course with our after-action debriefing, we are continually looking for small ways to improve the event as it grows. 🐾



# Our High Country Trail Ride On The Kettle Crest

PHOTO BY TRACEY AND ROB MICHAEL



By Lu Young Publicity & Lesa Gregory Trail Boss Ferry County Chapter

Our Ferry County Back Country Horsemen weekend campout at Jungle Hill and the ride on the scenic Kettle Crest was a success with forty-three riders anxious to see our spectacular views of the Colville Forest. Riders came from as far away as Maple Valley, Lewis County, Okanogan, Colville, and few riders from the Spokane area. We also had some of the members going to the State Work party spend the weekend riding with us. On Sunday morning Darrell Wallace came to inform those coming to the work party that it was canceled due to the fires in that area. The sunny weather and clear skies, as well as the bigger area to camp in for our ride, made it enjoyable for all who attended.

Friday night we had a potluck dinner to start off the great

weekend of riding and picture taking. A five-hour ride on Saturday took visitors and members up the Wapaloosie Trail into the high alpine country of the Colville Forest. The ride then came down the Jungle Hill trail and back to the camp area. Everyone enjoyed the ride and the steak dinner with Strawberry shortcake for dessert. Sunday breakfast we were treated to pancakes and sausage as well as biscuits and gravy.

Our guests told us the ride was extraordinary and they enjoyed taking some wonderful pictures of the Kettle Crest Range. We hope to use this area next year for our 2018 Scenic Ride and steak dinner. If you haven't seen our part of Washington's alpine country, you are in for a great time and breathtaking photography of our high country from your horse or mule. 2

PHOTO BY TRACEY AND ROB MICHAEL



PHOTO BY TRACEY AND ROB MICHAEL





# Mt. Muller/Littleton Horse Camp Ride



PHOTO BY JENNIFER BOND

*Lillian Bond & Kara, Sabrina and Lily Meyer.*

By Meghan Adamire, Mount Olympus Chapter

**B**CHW Mount Olympus Chapter members have been hard at work since April getting the Mt. Muller trail system and Littleton Horse Camp in shape. Over 664 hours and 53 stock days were logged by members doing brushing, weed whacking, raking, mowing and logging out of the trail, road and horse camp in preparation for the Chapter's first campout on the weekend of September 22nd.

Beautifully groomed campsites, corrals, and highline areas greeted riders that trailered in on Friday evening to stay overnight. More riders came in on Saturday morning. A hearty breakfast cooked by chapter members ensured everyone hit the trail with a full stomach.

The weather was perfect with sunny skies and temperatures in the high sixties. After a brief safety meeting, riders broke into groups, each followed by a drag rider.

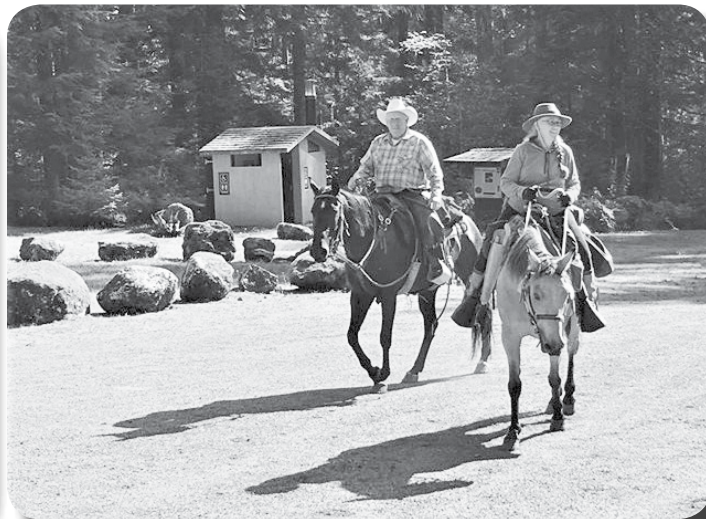
Once back in camp for the evening, over thirty folks gathered around the campfire in front of a canvas wall tent. They dined on a delicious pot-luck style dinner complete with four Dutch oven meals including rabbit stew and brownies. Dave and Rosalie Secord treated guests to live sing-along music during dinner. They have been playing at Back Country Horsemen events for years and even have a song dedicated to

*continued on page 22*

PHOTO BY MEGHAN ADAMIRE

*Views of the Straits and Lake Crescent from the Mt. Muller trail.*

PHOTO BY DAVE SEIBEL

*Boone Jones and Sherry Baysinger.*



## Mt. Muller/Littleton Horse Camp Ride

*continued from page 21*

local horsemen. A silent auction with items donated by Cowboy Country and chapter members helped provide funds to cover event costs.

For those that missed the ride and campout, the Littleton Horse Camp and main trailhead are located roughly 35 miles west of Port Angeles. The horse camp and bottom trails are at a lower elevation, so they are typically snow-free even during winter months. The horse camp also provides access to the Olympic Discovery Trail which leads riders all the way to Lake Crescent.

The Littleton Horse Camp and Mt. Muller loop trail are lo-

cated on USFS land, so a USFS Recreation Pass is necessary. For more information on the horse, camp visit the USFS website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/olympic/recarea/?recid=47719> or join the Mt Olympus Chapter of BCHW Facebook group.

A brochure on the Littleton Horse Camp and Mt. Muller trails with an updated version of the map showing the Olympic Discovery Trail access is available through our Chapter. We would love to share the brochure and any other information to those interested in checking out this wonderful camp and trail system. 🐾



PHOTO BY DAVE SEIBEL

*Dutch Oven cooking taken.*



PHOTO BY SHERRY BAYSINGER

*Members working to get the Mt Muller trails in great shape.*

## Content Deadline for the January/February 2018 Newsletter is December 1st

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

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

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

**ATTENTION!**



# Traildusters Halloween Fun Ride



A young rider and future Trailduster Hadlee drawing the hay raffle winner.



Traildusters Vice President Sheryl Johnson.



Kali and Colbie Hoover.



The chapter sold squares and the square the hen pooped in won 50/50 of the money pot.



# BCHW History

By Chris Enrico, BCHW Historian Chair

Chapters are beginning to send me their individual histories. I also have one CD with old photos on it being mailed to me. THANK YOU!

For those chapters that are now dissolved, I wish to include their history as well. If you have within your chapter membership members of these former chapters can you please work with them to provide a history? And if a chapter was a horse club before becoming a BCHW chapter, I want to include that history as well. (as an example, my primary chapter is Capitol Riders which was formed on February 1st, 1956. The club joined BCHW in 1988. The time frame from February 1956 until 1988 is being requested.)

A list of dissolved chapters as of 9/7/17:

- Alpine Lakes Trail Riders
- Blue Mountain
- Enumclaw Trail Riders
- High Country Riders
- Kettle Ridge
- Mason County
- Southwest Regional Appaloosa Club
- Thunder Mountain
- Tri-Rivers
- West Sound
- Wine Country Riders

I would like to have the following:

- If a club before joining BCHW - Incorporation date of the club and the name.
- Major projects such as horse camp creation, trails or other major work. Include dates.
- Community involvement (parades as an example or work projects not related to horse camps and trails). Dates for this are not important.

A couple of paragraphs is desired.

You can contact me via [historian@bchw.org](mailto:historian@bchw.org), and my mailing address is 4809 24th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503-3252. Cell number is 360-338-8073 (use it versus my land line, which has no way to take messages.)

Eventually, you'll be able to read the full history of BCHW and the chapters from day one. A history of horse camps will be included and where they were or are now as we've lost a few along the way. Photographs will be incorporated if you supply them (highest resolution possible! Try not to pull them off Facebook.) Older board meeting minutes will be included for those wanting all the details.

At this time I have two other members on the History Committee. If anyone else is interested they may contact me.

If you need to see what I have for Capitol Riders on the website, point your web browser to <http://capitolriders.org/about.htm>. Somewhat longer is Olympic Chapter's history at <https://www.olympicbchw.org/ocbchw-history> (include the hyphen!).

That about covers it for now. Thank you for your assistance in making this a reality! 🐾

## Get To Know Your Legislators

### You can Lobby By:

Your Legislators are at home in their legislative districts now.

- Call your local Legislators and ask them to speak at your chapter meeting.
- Meet your legislator for coffee before session starts in January.





# Sixteen Year History of Backcountry Horsemen

*On the 40th anniversary of the formation of BCHW, here is how it all got started. This is taken from the book "Common Sense Environmentalist! Ken Wilcox A Burr Under Bureaucratic Saddle".*

*Taken from Ken Wilcox's writings over 20 years. Edited by Lorraine Wilcox Ross. 1/1/2007*

From the February 1993 issue of the Trailhead News, Ken wrote his own version of BCH history:

"From this history, it would seem it was a one-man operation. Without the help of a bunch of charter members and my wife, Carol, who stayed home, worked and took care of the place and the horses while I ran around the state, this outfit, BCHW, would never have gotten away from the trailhead.

A good starting point is 1968 when Ken got a call from a hiker acquaintance, Louise Marshall, founder of Washington Trails Association and currently President of the Pacific Crest Trail Conference. Louise informed Ken that the Forest Service was conducting meetings regarding trails and back country recreation and that no one was representing the horsemen.

Ken, a member of Washington State Horsemen (WSH), called the president of that organization and was appointed to represent the horsemen at these meetings. He took a couple of members of the Traildusters Saddle Club with him to the next meeting at the Seattle Center.

It was 3 horsemen versus 500-plus hikers at their first meeting. Ken and his partners made a few points at that meeting but, most importantly, they got acquainted with recreation-

al staff officers from most of the National Forest along the Cascades. For Ken this meant lots of meetings at district ranger offices. Having a horseman present made a difference in most of the meetings.

In 1972 Ken was elected Trails Director for WSH and started recruiting trail riders for the Trail Division. He also submitted articles for the WSH monthly paper, the CANTER. Occasionally his articles included letters to the Forest Service officials that were embarrassing to the WSH horse show people. He also found that there were a lot of horsemen around the state that had a real or imaginary grievance

with the Washington State Horsemen, Inc.

It became apparent that a strong organization of horsemen interested in back country use would never happen under WSH title. So, in 1976, Ken and a bunch of Trails Division members got to planning a new organization, ran for and by trail riders.

Also in 1976 we became aware of a new national horsemen's organization called Back Country Horsemen of America, had formed in Montana and Idaho. Checking with them and comparing objectives, we decided to call our outfit, Backcountry Horsemen of Washington.

We had our first Summer Meeting and Ride, and garbage packout, at Lost Meadow of the Naches drainage in Yakima County, July 9 and 10, 1977." 🐾



## Shop the BCHW Store for Christmas Gift Giving!

So many items to choose from: tees, sweatshirts, safety wear, caps & visors, drink wear, and more!



Purchases support and advertise YOUR organization! Pictures and ordering information is at the Store link at [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org) or email [Store@bchw.org](mailto:Store@bchw.org) or call 360-482-2742



## 2018 Rendezvous BCHW

By Nicole Sedgwick, Executive Director

**2**018 Rendezvous, we are planning for Friday March 16th through Sunday, March 18th, 2017. We are hoping to bring a great Rendezvous to all members!! In the Bloom Pavilion on Friday and Saturday, we are scheduling different trainers to talk for about 50 minutes each, it is a concept that comes from some of the big horse expos and will give us the ability to allow a lot of different trainers to show their stuff to BCHW members and guests. If you know someone who is a good teacher with horses or mules, get a hold of me with their contact information, I would love to pack both days with great trainers! The used tack sale will be returning, bring your items to sell and buy some more!! Robert Eversole, the Trailmeister and Andy Breland with Trailhead Supply will both be at Rondy, and they are collaborating on some things, from what I have heard not something to miss!! Of course, the Lewis County Chapter will again be demonstrating how to pack.

Of course, we need more volunteers to help put on Rendezvous

- We need a few people to help turn over the Bloom Pavilion several times a day for the different trainers, there will be 10 minutes between trainers, so the Bloom needs to turn over quickly.
- We need someone to coordinate the parking and people to help make it happen.
- A person to help with advertising, it's helpful if that person is local in the Ellensburg area.

If you think of something else that would be interesting to BCHW members and want to help get it going at the 2018 Rendezvous, please get a hold of me at 360.640.1495 and let's see what we can do. 🐾

## Registering for Membership is Changing

By Nicole Sedgwick

**W**e have exciting things happening with membership for BCHW! We are now using a system called YourMembership for membership record keeping. On November 1st, we are planning to send out an email to everyone to remind you to renew your membership for 2018. At that point you can either use the forms we have always used and give it and your money to the membership chair of your chapter or use the information you get in the email, you can login to the YourMembership program and renew right there on the internet using your credit or debit card. If you have already renewed your membership for 2018 before this, no worries, your membership chair will take care of it for you.



Back Country Horsemen of America has been using this program for a few years now. By being a member of BCHW, you are also a member of BCHA. Your information has already securely been on this program and will continue to be kept secure.

This system will simplify things quite a bit for our hardworking volunteers. Over time, we will also be able to email an entire chapter, use the YourMembership program as a phone directory for your chapter, and have your saw certifications and CPR/1st Aid on the YourMembership program as well.

I hope to see the membership chairs from all the chapters at the Leadership Training in Ellensburg on January 20th, 2018, to learn about YourMembership. 🐾





# The BCHW 3rd Quarter Board of Directors' Meeting

By Janelle Wilson, BCHW Secretary

Back Country Horsemen of Washington held the 3rd Quarter 2017 Board of Directors' Meeting at the Kittitas Valley Event Center Armory Building in Ellensburg, WA, on September 16, 2017.

The meeting was called to order by President, Kathy Young, at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and absent was Whatcom County and excused were Skagit and Yakima Valley. A quorum was present. The agenda adopted as posted. The Board of Directors' Minutes from 2nd Quarter 2017 were accepted with the correction that Island County was present in June after roll call was taken (rather than absent).

## Officer and Committee Reports followed.

Executive Committee, Kathy Young, gave Dave Jackson his corrected President's Diamond Award. She also passed the donation can for the BCHA National Board Meeting to bring home the Hard Hat.

Heather Moorman, Membership Chair, has resigned her position after 13 years of service to BCHW. Directors were able to read her report on-line prior to the meeting.

Bernie Stratton has resigned as Public Lands Chair. Pete Erben is the new Public Lands Chair. Kathy Young announced that a few committee representatives would meet with the new DNR Recreation Manager, Tim Stapleton, in the following week.

## The collaboration of Organizations for Trail Work.

Nicole Sedgwick, Executive Director, explained the newest committee. BCHW initiated a meeting with Washington Trails Association (WTA), Pacific Northwest Trails Association (PNTA), and Pacific Crest Trails Association (PCTA) to explore a working model for trails management. The goal will be for the four organizations to work together organizing and collaborating to open trails in areas where each organization has a stake and interest. Jason Ridlon represented BCHW. The Pasayten was identified as the area where the four organizations have similar and overlapping goals. The next planning meeting is scheduled for November, with the goal of looking for funding in the 2020/2021 grant cycle.

Directors reviewed the Treasurer/Budget report from Teri Starke on-line during the week prior to the meeting.

Ways & Means & Calendars report was available for Directors to read prior to the meeting. A new editor is needed for Northwest Horse Source monthly article.

The Wine Ride 2017 preparations and needs were explained by Dave Jackson. BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Statewide Work Party report was posted by Jason Ridlon prior to the meeting.

The report was posted.

Governance and By-Laws committee progress was explained by Ken Carmichael. The Board of Directors voted to approve the following: Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy - signed by the BCHW President; Whistle Blower Policy - signed only once by new BCHW Directors and Officers; Notice By Electronic Transmission Consent - made part of the BCHW annual membership application. Also, chapters that use chapter-designed membership applications will be encouraged to include the statement on their forms. The statement will read "By signing this application I agree to receive notices from BCH by electronic transmission at the above email address."; and Conflict of Interest Policy and Conflict of interest Disclosure Questionnaire - the policy to be signed by the BCHW President. The questionnaire to be signed by BCHW Directors, Officers and Committees annually, preferably at the December board meeting or soon thereafter.

Membership Development report was posted prior to the meeting by Ken Carmichael.

Legislative Chair, Jeff Chapman, reminded Directors that someone from each chapter should be a representative on the Legislative Committee.

## Public Lands Chair

Kathy announced that Pete Erben is replacing Bernie Stratton as chair.

Executive Director, Nicole Sedgwick, talked about the grant received from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance of \$8,000 for the Hot Shot Crew project. She urged Directors to send other project proposals to her.

Grants chair, Darrell Wallace, explained grant funds redistribution.

BCHA representatives, Jason Ridlon and Darrell Wallace, explained emails and wildfires discussions within the organization. Specifically, the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Act was outlined. [Gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc](http://Gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc) - fires have Facebook pages.

BCHW Store, Lori Lennox, report was posted.

Volunteer Hours, Deb Wesselius, report was posted. Louise Caywood reported that hours for the period through September 30th are due November 1st. The Board of Directors discussed hours accounting and usage.

*continued on page 28*

## Directors' Meeting

*continued from page 27*

Awards, Lynn Wilhelm-Howell, report was posted. Kathy reminded everyone to get their awards packets to Lynn.

Safety, Doc Wesselius, report was posted.

It was announced that the Saw Program data had been transferred to Nicole. Directors should let Tom Mix know how many Stihl saw safety warning stickers (private and chapter saws) are needed.

LNT, Jane Byram, report was posted. The LNT Trailer was present if any Directors needed anything.

Publicity/THN deadline is October 1st for THN. Directors voted to print more brochures.

Website, Jim Thode's report was posted.

Trail Miles, Chris Enrico's, report was posted. An Ad Hoc committee was put together with Scott Lee, Chairman, to come up with how trail miles are calculated.

### **Unfinished Business followed the committee reports.**

Hot Shot Pasayten Project was outlined by Jason Ridlon. The Directors watched a PowerPoint presentation on the Andrews Creek Project in the Pasayten this summer. The Board gave Jason a standing ovation.

History of BCHW, Chris Enrico, asked Directors to try to get histories of chapters that dissolved. [Historian@bchw.org](mailto:Historian@bchw.org)

Bob Brooke Memorial Dedication was held on Saturday, September 9th at Elbe overlooking Alder Lake.

### **New Business followed unfinished business.**

Elections for officers of BCHW will be held in December at the 4th Quarter meeting.

President, Vice President, and 2 BCHA positions are being elected in 2017 for 2018 and beyond. The Nominating Committee will be Dave Sunde and Lori Lennox. Kathy opened the floor for nominations. Kathy Young accepted a nomination for President. Darrell Wallace accepted a nomination for BCHA.

The Board of Directors voted to approve the decisions outlined in the Executive Committee's September 2017 report.

Leadership Training location cost analysis was presented by Kim Merrick. The most cost-effective were Ellensburg with one session. Kim distributed a "proposed" agenda.

Tunerville Bridge Funding needs were presented by Jewel Hardy. Jewel explained the old logging camp, which became horse trails and camp. Oregon Equestrian Trails and Willapa BCHW have been trying to keep the camp open by meeting with DNR and working on trails to get grant funding. Now the bridge to Tunerville will be closed because it didn't pass inspection and belongs to

Rayonier Timber. Jewel requested that BCHW support a grant or put in one to help replace the bridge if a land swap occurs. Under new business, Directors voted to have BCHW support any grant requests or land swaps needed to get the bridge into Tunerville Horse Camp replaced.

Your Membership, which BCHA uses, was explained by Nicole Sedgwick. Nicole had analyzed BCHW's current Chapter, BCHW, and BCHA membership data collection methods. Directors voted to proceed with and fund the Your Membership/BCHA process for 2018.

Giving Tuesday (at Thanksgiving time) was explained by Nicole Sedgwick. Directors were reminded that 99.5% of every dollar that comes into BCHW goes toward the mission.

It was announced that the Insurance Policy would be renewed within budget.

### **Good of the Order followed.**

DNR Shooting Range was explained by Shari Tayer. There are conflicts (Fish & Wildlife) concerning dispersed shooting in her area and meetings are taking place. It was suggested to be neutral and advocate for safety.

Smile.Amazon.Com is a great way to donate to BCHW without cost to you. Dave Sunde reminded everyone to use it. Per Kathy Young suggested Horse.com also.

Rendezvous, needs a chapter to take on Packer competition and another for Parking. Contact Nicole Sedgwick.

Loup Loup Campground in Methow Valley will have six campsites initially. Donations are needed.

Name Tags & BCHW Store, Lori Lennox, can order pre-paid name badges for Directors.

Announcements followed.

Ken Carmichael reminded Directors to contact him about Membership development (President, Director and Membership Chair).

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Ellensburg, WA. Everyone is welcome to attend. 🐾



## 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).

### 4th QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Sat., Dec. 2, 9:00  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E. 7th Avenue, Ellensburg  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495  
[bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

### 1st QTR BCHW Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, March 17, 2018  
Kittitas Valley Event Center  
901 E 7th Ave  
Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495  
[bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

**Remember to email an article and photos of your event to the THN at: [bchw@wamedia.org](mailto:bchw@wamedia.org)**

### Example

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

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

Please submit the following information with your event listing to [bchw@wamedia.com](mailto:bchw@wamedia.com).

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

### 2018 Rendezvous

Friday, March 16- Sunday March 18, 2018  
Kittitas Valley Event Center,  
901 E 7th Ave  
Ellensburg, WA  
Exec Director Nicole Sedgwick  
360-640-1495  
[bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org)

### 2018 BCHA National Board Meeting

Sunday, April 23-25, 2018  
Spokane, WA  
Erica Fearn  
860-586-7540  
[efearn@bcha.org](mailto:efearn@bcha.org)

## Mark your calendars for the following Forest Service fee-free days in 2018:

Jan. 1: First Day Hikes; New Year's Day  
Jan. 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
March 19: State Parks' 105th Birthday  
April 14: Springtime free day  
April 22: Earth Day  
June 2: National Trails Day  
June 9: National Get Outdoors Day  
June 10: Free Fishing Day  
Aug. 25: National Park Service Birthday  
Sept. 29: National Public Lands Day  
Nov. 11: Veterans' Day  
Nov. 23: Autumn free day



Membership expires: 12/31/2017

John Doe

123 Horseback Loop SE  
Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Please check with your chapter treasurer or refer to page 14 of this issue for the membership renewal form.**

## Members!

This is your **last issue** of The Trailhead News if you have not paid your 2018 membership dues yet. Please pay them now. Your membership expiration date is located on your mailing label. For questions, please contact your chapter treasurer or Nicole Sedgwick, Executive Director/Membership Chair, at [bchwexec@bchw.org](mailto:bchwexec@bchw.org) or [membership@bchw.org](mailto:membership@bchw.org).



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# 16th Annual Halloween & Winery Ride

1st Place



Dr. Renee Gray of Lake Stevens WA, as a fairy and a dragon.

2nd Place



Julie Brudie of Lewiston, ID as Gingerbread man on the Silver Fox

3rd Place



Damaris Smyth of Oregon City, OR as Alice in Wonderland.

Best Group



Left to right: Ellen Felsenthal, Arlington, WA, Catherine Collins, Snohomish, WA, Kelli McCaleb, Everson, WA as Candy Princesses

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY JIM THORP

