

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter  
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

# TRAIL TALES

**Whatcom Chapter**  
**P. O. Box 28607**  
**Bellingham, WA 98228**  
**2022**

**President:**

Cindy Piccolo  
360-961-4839

**Vice President:**

Roger Edmonds  
360-296-3512

**Director:**

Bill McKenna  
360-599-2526  
(2020-2022)

**Alternate Director:**

Joe Remenar  
j.remenar@gmail.com  
(2021-2023)

**Secretary:**

Sharon Hoofnagle  
360-734-4258

**Treasurer:**

Timothy Van Beek  
360-715-7196

**Membership:**

Fran Van Diest  
360-734-2567

**Newsletter Editor &  
Publicity**

Fran Van Diest  
fvandiest@msn.com  
360-734-2567

**May 2022**

## Notes from the President

BCHW mission statement: 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.

I would like to start out by saying hats off to Sharon Hoofnagle for helping to organize our table for the Northwest Small Farm Expo held on April 23rd at the Lynden Fair grounds. Our table had a display of 3 boards of pictures of some of the wonderful trail accomplishments we have done throughout the years. We had 2 scrap books that Debbie Lagerwey has put together to show our rides and trail work defining the years. We had a video for folks to watch of the beautiful scenery and trail work of all the Washington Chapters accomplishments. I am very proud of our members who volunteered to help answer questions to folks who had no idea who we were and what we represent. I felt that anyone who stopped by our table was welcomed by all of our members.

Remember our Auction is May 14th at the Deming Logging show. There are many horse and non horse related items up for auction, for example; Baked goods, Artwork, gift baskets, lots of tack, jewelry and landscaping supplies plus more auction items for everyone. Remember don't forget we have the silent auction before the live auction. Come with an appetite because Cicchitti's East Coast Pizza will be there to fill your hunger.

Thank you everyone for being engaged in this organization and thank you for reaching out to me with your thoughts, concerns and accomplishments.

I am proud to say that I am your President of Whatcom Backcountry Horseman.

~Ride on!

Cindy Piccolo President

**Check out our Website:**

<http://www.whatcom-bch.com/>

**VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Barefoot vs Shoeing**

The following article is from TheHORSE magazine. April 22, 2022 It is based on communication with Göran Åkerström, D.V.M.

FEI Veterinary Director. Dr Åkerström lives in Switzerland. It is an excellent unbiased article.

**The Smart Horse Owner's Guide To Bare Feet**

The barefoot sport horse trend is a good one, Åkerström said. But riders must tread with caution.

"Each case needs to be evaluated individually," he said. "You really need to consider each horse and his discipline, and you need to manage the case and give it enough time. And you need to be very, very observant on how to manage that horse in the best way. You will find that, quite often, it depends on the horse and how much and of what quality hoof he has, how quickly it grows back, the footing, and so on."

Our sources say successful competitive barefoot riding requires:

**Skill.** The farrier and the veterinarian must be open-minded and well-trained in barefoot horse health, from evidence-based trimming techniques to a keen eye for subtle lameness.

**Time.** Give the horse's feet ample time, usually several months, to adjust to working barefoot—especially if the feet were shod previously.

**Genetics.** Did the parents have good feet? Select for horses that appear to have the genes for high-quality hooves.

**Nutrition.** Horses can't grow good hooves without a healthy, well-balanced diet.

**Environment.** Strong hooves develop in more natural environments where horses can move around over varied terrain, rather than standing for hours with their feet in feces or urine-soaked bedding.

**Discernment.** Even if the horse's feet look great, some situations and terrain call for extra protection, whether metal or plastic shoes, a layer of adhesive resin, or removable boots.

**Humility.** A horse's health and welfare are more important than the rider's pride. If going barefoot doesn't work, it's time to step back and use shoes—at least temporarily, while figuring out the next steps.

"For both performance and welfare, you have to evaluate each case individually," Åkerström said. "And always, of course, with a focus on equine welfare as your No.1 priority."

**2022  
TRAIL BOSSES**

Rocky Leavitt  
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar  
360-778-9848

Roger Nelson  
360-599-2461

**WORK PARTY  
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson  
360-599-2461

**PACKING  
COORDINATOR**

Rocky Leavitt  
360-599-2675

A Special Thank You to:  
**Laurel Farm & Western Supply**  
America's Horse Country  
Weylin & Amy Eldred  
325 W Laurel Rd., Bellingham 360/398-1216  
\* 360/398-8050 fax  
Hours: Mon– Fri: 8:30am. to 7 pm; Sat:  
8:30am.to 6:00 pm. and Sun 9 am. to 5 pm.

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**EDITOR'S POLICIES**

Trail Tales is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Non-copyrighted submissions are welcomed (subject to space limitations). Opinions and views expressed in letters or personal articles are not necessarily the opinions of BCH. Send submissions to: Editor, Fran Van Diest, 723 Van Wyck Rd, Bellingham, WA. 98226. Email to: [fvandiest@msn.com](mailto:fvandiest@msn.com).

**WBCH General Meeting Minutes April 13 2022 Laurel Grange**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Cindy P. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Sunshine:** Michelle M.- cards were sent out

**Volunteer hrs.:** Verna M.- we had 106.5 hrs. for March

**Treasurer:** Tim V. – balances were read. (members can request balances).

Cindy has given up her credit card and square to Tim. Tim, Joe, and Fran also have credit cards.

**Directors:** Bill M: legislative- the re-organization of the state is nearing completion. The executive committee is close to being established. The details will be published in the May Trailhead News.

The concept and by-laws and standing rules will be voted on at the state level in June.

Bill gave some history. Our system will be following the BCHA format (established years ago by Mike

McGlenn) Five directors will communicate with us. This will simplify our contact with public land managers.

They want one point of contact. Kathy Young will represent public lands at the state level. One of our biggest issues is the lack on contact between chapters. Kathy will be a good contact. Point of contact is also important for grants.

We have several new people at the forest service.

Work is needed at Schreiber's, Excelsior, and Pioneer Camp (route to Elbow Lake). An engineer is being sent in to plan the road repairs to Pioneer Camp.

**Hot Shot funds.** Tim V.- Jason Ridlon has clarified on how funds can be spent. One of our primary issues is lack of parking. Some options for spending funds are Pine and Cedar, Larrabee by the maintenance sheds (Clayton Beach parking), and the Silver Lake parking loop. There is \$12,600 available. Permits and flagging expenses are also appropriate for Hot Shot funds. Tim described using cash as leverage. We have 12 months to spend the money but that started in Nov 2021.

We need to spend the money or have a solid plan for next year. It is a two-year cycle.

**RCO funds** However we need to spend RCO funds first (forest service lands only). The next RCO grant application is this fall. Rocky suggested hiring a crew for Goat Mt and Skyline work. RCO funds cannot be spent on roads. A list had been sent out on proposed projects. We need to prioritize.

**Work Parties:** Roger N- only wp planned is for National Trails Day. The DNR arranges for help from Whidbey Island Naval Station.

**Packing:** Rocky- nothing new for packing. Rocky is willing to teach packing at Vedder, will ask to have a notice put in the newsletter. Tim noted that packing is a skill set that is disappearing.

**Trailheads**

**Vedder:** issue of vehicles parking in trailer areas. Roger talks to folks and leaves notes on vehicles. Signage is planned. It was requested that signs not be put on trees.

**Y Rd:** Bill M and Sharon H rode with Hyden from the DNR, Arlyn from WTA and Eric from the Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition up the logging roads and viewed the new logging sites. Arlyn and Eric are with groups that can contract with the DNR. BCH is not. They will be scouting out the new trails once logging is completed. We have asked to be kept informed of plans.

**Silver Lake:** there are plans to remodel one barn by removing the tie stalls and install steel corrals. However, the number of stalls will be decreased. There are currently 36 tie stalls but there are issues with them. We may be able to get 16 steel corrals in. There is also a plan for a gravel road, highlines, and camp spots around the meadow. There are plans to build more trails connecting to Maple Falls

**Auction:** Melinda S- deadline for value letters is April 16. Drop off items at Nancy's 4/24 through 5/6- call her first. Tagging is on 5/7. Sign-up sheets to work are being sent around. Two more people are needed in the office. We need people to transport items from Nancy's to the auction.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Sharon Hoofnagle secretary

**Volunteer Hours for March 2022---basic--29, skilled--2.5, admin---64, travel---11 for a total of 106.5 hours.**

Bill McKenna  
Cindy Piccolo  
Colette Cloutier  
Fran Van Diest  
Joe Remenar  
Letitia Wheeler  
Melinda Smull  
Mike McGlenn  
Ryan Heacock  
Sharon Hoofnagle  
Verna McLeod

### Auction

The auction committee has been working hard and getting everything ready to have an auction this year. Since not having an auction for the last 2 years, the committee is going thru the donated items and contacting the businesses that donated gift certificates to make sure we are still able to use them and also updating the list.

Melinda is also getting volunteers to help with the auction where ever needed. Will need to setup items, help with the office, silent and live auction and help clean up. Having lots of helpers really helps so not just a few have to do all the work.

It takes hours and hours to make the auction a success! We appreciate all your help! Contact Melinda at 360-595-2137 or send her an email at [mwrsmull@aol.com](mailto:mwrsmull@aol.com) if you can help.

**Save the date: May 14, 2022 and join us!**

Fran

### Sunshine Committee

**If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact Michelle McKenna at 360-599-2526 or send her an email at: [wintercreek10@gmail.com](mailto:wintercreek10@gmail.com)**

Thinking of you card sent to Virgil Stremmer's family. Virgil passed away on April 3, 2022 at home.

### Landowner Spotlight: Larissa & Jonathan Ullberg



Whatcom CD has been able to partner with the Ullbergs through our Small Grants program to help fund new manure storage and footing for their heavy use area. Learn more about the Ullberg's story and how you can partner with the Whatcom CD on your farm!

**"Improving the heavy use area in our horse paddocks has been a huge benefit to our horses." - Larissa Ullberg**







# CALENDAR



**Due to the coronavirus, more information on the following will be sent by email at a later date. All dates are currently pending until further notice.**

**At this time work parties will be scheduled as needed and email will be sent to notify members.**

**May 2, 2022----zoom board meeting at 7:00pm.**

**May 11, 2022-----general meeting at Laurel Grange on Guide Meridian, social hour at 6:30pm and meeting at 7:00pm to 8:30pm.**

**May 14, 2022----Auction at Deming Logging show on Cedarville road. Silent from 5:30pm to 7:00pm and Live starts at 7:15pm**

## **2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

Bill McKenna  
360-599-2526

### **LEAVE NO TRACE:**

Bill McKenna  
360-599-2526

### **VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Verna McLeod  
360-595-2744

### **PROGRAMS:**

Sharon Hoofnagle  
360-7344258

### **SUNSHINE**

Michelle McKenna  
360-599-2526

### **TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE**

Mike McGlenn  
360-739-2619

### **SCRAPBOOK**

Debbie Lagerwey  
360-354-2804  
Need Pictures!



Here are a few pictures of the Small Farm Expo event held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the NW Fairgrounds. Thank you Sharon Hoofnagle and all her helpers for participating in this event.  
Fran



THE WHATCOM CHAPTER OF

# BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN of WA

INVITES YOU TO OUR 23RD  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Deming Logging Show

3295 Cedarville Rd.  
Bellingham.

5:30-7:00pm--Silent Auction

7:15pm--Live Auction starts

Cicchitti's Food truck available



**Backcountry Horsemen have been teaching our Leave No Trace Principles by example while helping to maintain thousands of miles of multi-use trails. Your local Whatcom Country Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen works with:**

- City and County Parks Departments
- Dept of Natural Resources
- US Forest Service
- Pacific NW Trails Association
- Washington Trails Association

**to protect Multi-User Trailheads and trail facilities in remote areas of our region.**

**Volunteer members ride and pack in supplies by horseback on maintenance projects to benefit many users.**

**Funds raised buy equipment and supplies to help preserve our right to ride and access public lands for future generations. As a local non profit organization, we rely on community support of our efforts on behalf of all trail users, including riders, bikers, runners, walkers, and naturalists.**



**Join our fun Auction on May 14, 2022 at Deming Logging Show**

WHATCOM CHAPTER



(For the past 2 years we have not had our auction, due to Covid restrictions, we are looking forward to this auction).

**(Cash, Check and Credit Card)**

**For more information or to donate contact:**  
**Melinda Smull at 360-595-2137**  
**Sam Miller at 360-325-2833 or**  
**Nancy Giordano at 360-961-0822**



**Virgil Stremler, April 22, 1947 - April 3, 2022.**

Virgil passed away on April 3, 2022 after a 7 year battle with esophageal cancer.

Virgil was a member and friend of Whatcom Backcountry Horsemen of WA for many years. He helped many times packing in supplies for work parties when needed. He was a generous supporter of our annual auction, donating and buying to help out with our mission.

Our Chapter had the privilege to hold our yearly Confidence Builder ride at his place for 14 or more years. He welcomed everybody with his smile! He was always willing to help us set up all the obstacles.

He made many friends thru out all the years, enjoyed visiting with everybody that was there, helping out when needed, telling stories and even entertaining us with his singing.

Virgil will be missed!  
So long our friend,  
Whatcom BCH,  
Fran



Above: Virgil's last ride. Other pictures at the Confidence builder ride, at a packing clinic he participated for the chapter, men's night out event. More pictures on the next page.







More pictures of Virgil, packing in, at the auction and singing at the Confidence builder ride.

Below: Thank you card from Cheeta for the flowers and donation to Bryce Creek Church camp.

Fran



Thank you for the  
gift to Bryce Camp.  
It will be well  
used.

And thank you  
for the beautiful  
bouquet

BCH

To thank you for your  
kindness  
and sympathy  
at a time  
when it was  
deeply appreciated

Stemles



## Come Join Us!

Go to [BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org) and join or renew online. If online is not an option, please fill out this paper application and sign, (all members 18 and over must sign) enclose your cash or check made out to BCHW and mail to:

**BCHW Membership Chair**  
**11404 210<sup>th</sup> Ave Ct E**  
**Bonney Lake, WA 98391**



**Whatcom Co.**

## Member Info

**Check One:** ☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Secondary Chapter Application Only

Adult's name(s):

Children's name(s):

Mailing Address:

City:

ST:

Zip:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Legislative district (if known):

County:

**National and State Newsletters are viewable online at [BCHA.org](http://BCHA.org)/[BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org) or Please mail a hard copy of Newsletters**  
**(Check Boxes)** ☐ BCHA Newsletter ☐ BCHW (Trailhead News) ☐ Chapter Newsletter (If available to mail)

## STATE MEMBERSHIP

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

### Basic Memberships

☐ Single \$41.00  
☐ Family \$54.00

**Levels below include Single and Family**

☐ Contributing \$75.00  
☐ Sustaining \$125.00  
☐ Patron \$250.00  
☐ Benefactor \$500.00  
☐ Lifetime (Single) \$1200.00

All chapter members must also be a member of BCHW. However, BCHW dues only need to be paid **once** each year. Joining additional (secondary) chapters only requires paying chapter dues.

Chapter Name (or Independent):

**Whatcom Co.**

If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW State dues have been paid for 2021:

**Chapter Dues \$10.00**

*Please consider making a State donation:*

\$

*Please consider making a Chapter donation:*

\$

*Chapter Subtotal*

\$

*State Subtotal*

\$

**Grand Total (State+Chapter)**

\$

### NOTICES

By signing this membership application, you will agree to the terms of our Liability Release. You can read it on our website at [bchw.org](http://bchw.org), under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

**Signature:**

**Date**

**Signature:**

**Date**

**Signature:**

**Date**



Fran Van Diest  
WBCH Newsletter Editor  
723 Van Wyck Rd  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360) 734-2567



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Check out the BCHW  
Website at:  
<http://www.bchwh.org>



*Next*  
**Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen**

*Meeting:*  
**General Meeting: May 11, 2022**  
**Laurel Community Grange**  
**6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA**

**Social at 6:30pm**  
**Meeting 7:00pm---8:30pm**

