

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2017

April 2017

Notes from the President

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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.

Well, spring is here by the calendar I just hope that it will bring warmer dryer weather. Just got back from rendezvous in Ellensburg and had a great time. There were at least a dozen of our members that made the trip over to listen to presentations and see if they could find any good deals at the tack sale. This is a good time to talk to other chapter members and make connections. I would like to thank Bill and Michelle McKenna for offering the ride and stay at their B&B. It raised \$500 dollars in the Whatcom Chapters name.

The trails this winter have been adversely impacted by the bad winter we have had. Trees and tree tops are down on most of the trails in the area. I would like to thank the 9 members that were at the work party at Heady on March 11th. It sounds like a lot of work was accomplished in a short amount of time because of the number of people that showed up. I would also like to thank Roger Nelson and Joe Remenar for going out on their own work party and clearing trails at Heady on the following weekend.

April is just around the corner, longer days and warmer weather. The Easter ride will be coming up soon and if you haven't been out riding, get the horse or mule prepared and get out there.

Happy Trails
Rodney

Check out our Website:

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

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M Fasten Those Caps Down Tight

Most of the information in “vet notes” is referred info; it’s in the veterinary literature and is peer-reviewed. Unlike info off the internet or word of mouth, the reader has a reasonable chance of it being reliable. Not so this month. The topic today is word of mouth or personal experience of riders- so read at your own risk.

Tops on cans and bottles can make life interesting for the horseperson. I recall an experienced packer relating how he got bucked off a green horse when he opened a beer. The horse took exception to the “psst”. It must have been a really green horse because this guy rarely went very long without opening a beer. He wasn’t hurt, but sure was upset over losing the beer.

Most have heard about tops coming off spray bottles like vegetable pan sprays in the packs. It can make life interesting for the pack horse and a messy pack. Tape them down before packing.

Velcro can be startling for a green horse but most horses now days have heard Velcro opening- it’s on jackets, saddle bags, fly masks, etc. Ziplocs often leak all over your saddlebags.

But I had an unsettling experience recently. While clearing trail on foot in an area with bear (due to bird feeders) I accidentally dislodged the safety clip on the pepper spray can. Sawing, bending over, dragging limbs, I’m not sure how or when but the fool-proof safety clip was dislodged and some spray leaked out. THAT STUFF IS NASTY. Fortunately I was close to home. First sign was a nasty taste, then I started coughing and my face started tingling. I got home, washed my hands very well, then splashed water on my face. Whoops, hadn’t washed my hands well enough, my face started burning. It can cause permanent blindness if it is sprayed direct in the eyes, but also substantial but temporary eye damage if just a little gets in the eye, for example by rubbing the eye. The directions say to rinse with water for 20 minutes. So if you are going to spray yourself do it next to a creek, because we rarely have that amount of water with us on the trail.

End note- I am re-thinking carrying the spray. I never carry it on my horse; horses and bears seem to tolerate each other very well. But on foot with a dog is another matter. Dogs will chase a bear, and if it is a cub momma is going to get the dog. I have carried spray over 25 yrs. without a problem. But now I think I would rather take my chances with the bear and leave the spray home, or at least double-contain it.

**2017
TRAIL BOSSES**

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar
360-818-4481

Cindy Piccolo
360-966-4082

**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

**Sunshine Committee**

If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact Shirley Todhunter, 360-966-5206 or send her an email at hermater09@gmail.com.

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. E-mail to: fvandiest@msn.com.

Whatcom BCH Annual Auction

Our annual auction was held on February 24, 2017 at the Everson Auction Barn. We want to thank everybody that helped make this a successful event! Special thanks to Pete and Terry DeBruin for the use of the facility and to Nick Margeson for donating his time and expertise as auctioneer. Also thank you to the Café ladies: Sharon, Lori and Margaret for having the Café open. Thank you to the auction committee: Bill McKenna, Sam Miller, Sharon Hoofnagle, Walden and Becky Haines, Gary Anderson, Nancy Giordano, Melinda Smull, Geri Surratt, Fran Van Diest, Debbie Lagerwey, Shirley Todhunter, and Susan Sebastian for all their work. Thank you to all the helpers before, during and after auction day, getting donations, setting up, getting tables to the auction, picking up items, separating items for silent and live, working in the office, helping out at the Silent and Live auction and also cleaning up afterwards. We appreciate all the support the community has given to the Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of WA. **Thank You to everybody listed below that donated to our auction! Without your help our auction would not have been successful!**

A & B Rock

A2Z Manufacturing

Moss Adams

Helen Almojera

Gary Anderson

Anonymous (3 different)

Barbies Berries

Barrett Transmission

BB Stables

Toni Beck

Bell Deco

Dick Bedlington Farms

Bellewood Acres

Jody Bergsma Galleries

Toni Blakely

Blue T Lodge (Connie)

Bodes Precast

Bogaard Hay

Bolton Tires

Bony Pony

Cascade Sherpas—Monica Uruchurtu

Kelly Caughlin

Chair 9 Restaurant-- Connie

Circle A Trailer

Colette Cloutier

Rena Colton

Conway Feed

Doug Crabtree

Elenbaas Company

Fairhaven Runners

Nancy Giordano

Good Burger

Graham's Restaurant--Connie

Johnny Green & Pack String band

Growsource, Inc.

Gary Grinde

Margaret Hamstra

Jim Harmon

Walden Haines

Hempler's

Chase & Beth Hill

Len Honcoop Gravel

Sharon Hoofnagle

J & L Hay Express

Kent's Nursery

Carol Ketchum

Barbara Kress

Kulshan Veterinary Lynden

Leroy & Debbie Lagerwey

Monty & Joy Lagerwey

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Whatcom BCH Annual Auction list of donors

**Renee Laird
 Laurel Farm Supply
 Chick Long
 Curt Maberry Farm
 Michael McCaffrey
 Mike McGlenn
 Galen McKay
 Bill & Michelle McKenna
 Verna & Andy McLeod
 Meridian Equipment
 Mount Baker Theatre
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 Northland Diesel Service Inc.
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 R & M Leather
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 Susan Sebastian
 Skagit Chapter - BCH
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 Vanderyacht Propane
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 Margaret Visser
 Bruce Vredevoogd
 Wallgren Tire Center
 Washington Tractor
 Robert Watson
 Lance & Dawn Weaver
 Yeager's Sporting Goods**

CLASSIFIEDS

*** Place your classified ad here. Classifieds are free to Whatcom BCH members, or just \$3.00 for anyone else. Send your ad and money to the newsletter editor by the 2nd Wednesday of the month.*

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: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat: 8:30 a.m. to

6:00 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
March 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve the January 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Mike McGlenn gave an overview on the DNR Recreation Plan (Baker to Bellingham Recreation area). There are 86,000 acres, part of which is in a Trust – primarily timber sales. Of those, DNR wants to designate 28,000 acres to the marbled murrelet habitat. There are no legal trails on DNR land in Whatcom County and Walden and Mike are on the committee studying areas for trails. Mike needs feedback before March 14 on what BCH would like to see. He also mentioned the bridge on the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River in the Mt. Baker National Forest that has been out for years. “Our member, Letitia Wheeler, is coordinating a group of professional consultants and engineers that will complete the NEPA documentation for submittal to the USFS to complete permitting for a new bridge”.

Treasurer’s Report: Jackie was not present. Rodney gave a report on the budget. There was approximately \$900 carry over for equipment from last year, and there was a question if there will be enough funds allotted for packers hauling in. Rocky reported that if the club members don’t get money from PNT for the Suiattle pack in we won’t have enough, but it is expected that the mileage will be paid as it was last year. **Motion was made by Deb Lagerway to pass the budget as written; seconded by Mike McGlenn. Motion carried.**

Director’s Report: Bill McKenna reminded everyone of the Great Gravel Pack-In at the Capital Forest, and Rendezvous coming up. Bill has donated a “Come Ride in My Part of the State” ride on Excelsior as a fundraiser for the State. **Motion was made by Joe Remenar to accept/sanction Bill’s ride donation; seconded by Mike McGlenn. Motion carried.** Bill also reported there are 15 calendars left. He suggested the chapter or individuals purchase them and donate them to different agency PR people.

Volunteer Hours: Rodney read off the hours for January (64.5) and February (371).

DNR Volunteer Hours: Rodney and Mike had hours to turn in. The map Gary Bellows handed out had a small error – the connector trail between Lily and Lizard lakes is for stock use, but doesn’t say so on the map.

Work Parties/Trail Coordinator/Bosses: There is a work party at Heady Road/Vedder Mt. Saturday at 10:00 weather permitting. Park at Vedder Mt. trailhead. Joe mentioned looking for someone to volunteer to tow the tool trailer as it can’t be brought to a work party when we are towing horses. That person (or persons) could also have coffee and donuts or sandwiches available to the workers.

Trailheads:

Stewart Mt: Less than a quarter of the people who use the trail are BCH members. The 15 mile loop trail is blocked because the bridge is out. There was mention of trying to locate another crossing area, but that has been researched before and the spot where the bridge was is the best place.

Saxon has a lot of trees down.

NW Region: Susan reported the prize ride at Les Hilde/Harry O is being planned for July 8. There will be a work party June 17 for it. \$250 was donated to the new parking lot at Pilchuck, and there have been items donated to the State auction at Rendezvous.

Rendezvous: Whatcom Chapter has two tables reserved.

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Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
 Minutes of Monthly Meeting
 March 8, 2017

Committees:

Auction: We made a little less than hoped for, but this was also the same weekend as the horse show so that might have contributed.

Rides: The schedule is out. There are no high country or overnight rides scheduled, but Rocky is planning a high ride.

Fund-raising: If we need more funds we may do a prize ride later. Let Rocky or Susan know of any ideas.

Unfinished Business:

Inventory: Rocky had a rough list. Need people to go through their houses/barns or wherever to see if they have any items so we can find out where everything is.

Joe mentioned Fran’s computer died. She uses her own personal computer for all the chapter work and has bought their own new one. Mention was made to reimburse her. Its not budgeted for so this will be brought up at the next officer’s meeting.

New Business:

LNT Person: Rodney asked if anyone would be interested in becoming an LNT person. Bill McKenna mentioned this person is to educate members of the principles of LNT. There were no takers at this time.

Confidence Builder: This has been scheduled for May 20. A work party will be scheduled beforehand but no date has been set yet.

Youth Trail: FFA/Nooksack has been in touch with Rocky to do trail work for a fund raiser for their club.

A list was passed out for people to list their background and areas of expertise, their priorities for BCHW, and what they enjoy most about BCHW.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Johnson



May 2016--April 2017 ad

Advertising Rates

Full Page----\$45.00 per month, limited to space available

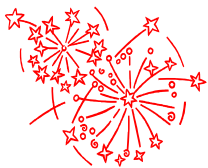
1/2 Page.....\$90.00 for 6 months or \$150.00 for a Year

1/4 Page.....\$60.00 for 6 months or \$100.00 for a Year

Business Card....\$30.00 for 6 months or \$50.00 for a Year

Classifieds.....\$3.00 per month

Free Classifieds for members!



CALENDAR



April 3rd—Monday

Board meeting at Roundtable Pizza, dinner at 6:00pm, meeting at 7:00pm.

April 8th—Saturday

Work party at Heady trails.

April 12th—Wednesday

General meeting at Laurel Community Grange. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Treats: Helen Almojera and Melinda Smull.

April 15th—Saturday

Easter Egg Ride at Heady. The gate will be open so you can park at the gazebo. The club will have hamburgers, hot dogs and maybe some soup the rest is potluck so please bring a dish to share. Be ready to ride at 10:00am A donation will be collected for the use of the gazebo and partial food expense.



2017 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
360-734-4258

HOSPITALITY:

Vacant

SUNSHINE

Shirley Todhunter
360-966-5206

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-739-2619

SCRAPBOOK

Debbie Lagerwey
354-2804
Need Pictures!

Save the Date:

Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of WA. invites you to their 16th Annual Confidence Builder Ride!

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Stremmer's—9480 Van Buren Road, Lynden

Starts at 10:00 a.m. Last rider out—11:30am

There is a \$10.00 donation per person for the event, includes lunch, children under 6 free.



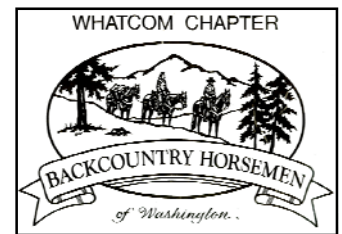
Easter Egg Ride

April 15, 2017

Backcountry Horsemen, Whatcom Chapter is having their annual Easter Egg ride on Saturday, April 15, 2017 at the Heady Rd trails. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. The gate will be open, you can park at the gazebo or parking area just below.

Hamburgers and hotdogs will be served, the rest will be pot-luck so bring a dish to share. A donation will be collected for the use of the gazebo/food.

Minors must wear helmets. Please take a halter and lead rope along. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Come join us for a 2 hour leisure ride and then lunch at 12:30 p.m. and egg hunt around 1.30 p.m. Family and friends welcome! We will be hunting for candy filled eggs and may have some hard boiled eggs! Bring your own basket.



FOR SALE:

15 year old gelding, 15.1 hands. Trail ridden, could be a good pack horse.
 \$1,000.00 but negotiable.
 360-332-7120

CARE OR LEASE HORSE:

Annie 22 years old. Great on trails. Perfect for an older adult. Mare is very solid. Has been at The Lynden Fair competitions. Call Debbie Blockley for all information. 360-325-3884





Rhodes River Ranch Packing Clinic, March 4, 2017

Several members were able to attend the packing clinic at Rhodes River Ranch. They all helped load up the animals with different items. They even showed how to pack doors!

Attending were Rodney Vandersypen, Joe Remenar, Rocky Leavitt, Roger Nelson, Walden and Becky Haines and Bill and Michelle McKenna.

This is just one of the activities our members do to educate the public of the work Backcountry horsemen volunteer to do.

Here's a few pictures of the demonstration.

Fran



Packing supplies for WTA

In August members will be packing in supplies for WTA on several weekends. If you wish to join them, you can contact Rocky at Rockyleavitt044@gmail.com. More information will be at the general meetings.

Fran

Heady trails work party

On March 11th, Roger Nelson, Rocky Leavitt, Joe Remenar, Bruce Vredevoogd and Cindy Lucas and their dog Sophie, Therese Jones, Sharon Hoofnagle and myself worked on the trails behind the Gazebo, trails going out of the Gazebo and cleaned brush along road and the entrance to the Gazebo. The picture with Sharon giving a thumbs up tells all. What a day of heavy rain and some sunshine.

We came back to the Gazebo with Debbie Lagerwey having lunch ready for us and a warm fire, thank you for that Debbie. Bill McKenna came later for support and comrade. What a wonderful feeling to work on the trails for all of us to enjoy and be safe.
~Trail Boss Cindy Piccolo



2017-2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Come Join Us!

To join BCHW, complete this application, sign the liability release (all members 18 and over), and enclose payment:

Chapter members, turn application and payment in to Helen Almojera, PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228. Make check out to: Whatcom BCH.

Independent members (folks who are **not** joining a chapter), make check out to "BCHW", and mail application and payment to: BCHW, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



Member Info

New Member		Renewal – Membership number(s):	
Adult's name(s):			
Children's name(s):			
Address:			
City:		ST:	Zip:
Phone number:		E-mail:	
Legislative district (if known):		County:	

Check to opt out of mailed (hardcopy) newsletter: BCHW (Trailhead News) Chapter

STATE MEMBERSHIP			CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP	
Basic Membership			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.	
	Single	\$41.00		
	Family	\$54.00		
Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)			Chapter Name (or Independent):	
	Contributing	\$75.00	WHATCOM COUNTY	
	Sustaining	\$125.00	If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW dues have been paid for 2017:	
	Patron	\$250.00		
	Benefactor	\$500.00		
	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00	Chapter Dues	\$10.00
State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)			Additional Chapter Donation	\$
Additional State Donation		\$	Chapter Subtotal	\$
State Subtotal		\$	Grand Total (State+Chapter)	

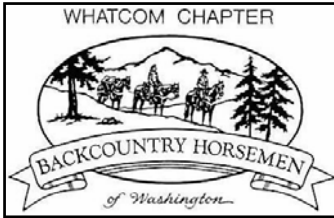
LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

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 Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Inc., including Chapters, officers, directors, or members, cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience levels of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other BCHW events, I do hereby release and hold harmless the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children, or horses.

Signature:		Date:	
Signature:		Date:	
Signature:		Date:	

Backcountry 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.



Fran Van Diest
WBCH Newsletter Editor
723 Van Wyck Rd
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(360) 734-2567



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Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:
General Meeting: April 12, 2017
Laurel Community Grange,
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA
Meeting at 7:00
Treats: Helen Almojera and Melinda Smull

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

