

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2021

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:

Jackie Yereance
360-318-5509

Membership:

Helen Almojera
360-592-8080

Newsletter Editor &

Publicity

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

Notes from the President March 2021

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.

Spring is just around the corner and "Hope springs eternal". You ask why? Definition "it is human nature to always find fresh cause for optimism" I know a lot of us have been deeply impacted financially, emotionally and physically during this past year. I want to thank everyone who was able to renew your membership this year. We have 120 current members and 24 being new members. That to me speaks volume. A friendly reminder your membership helps our chapter and state to continue to be a voice for our mission statement. If you were unable to renew I know your support for this organization will continue whether it is packing, legislative, trail work or riding the trails.

Our annual auction has been postponed to a later date due to covid 19 guidelines. Please contact Melinda Smull if you would like to help. She has been doing a great job making sure we are keeping our donors and the Deming log show of changes when they arise. We have had wonderful support and understanding from everyone. I know the committee is hopeful for March 2022.

With our riding season coming soon use this time to clean your tack, work with your horse/mule, plan a camping trip, trail ride or clean a section of the trail. Our stock is just as eager as we are to get out there and have fun.

The board is having virtual meetings and if you have any question, concerns or suggestions please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your voice is very important and it takes a village to be successful. I am hoping we will be together to have our General meetings. Everything is a work in progress and we will get through this and we will prevail.

Remember to dream it, believe it and achieve it.

~Ride on!

Cindy Piccolo Whatcom Chapter BCH President

Check out our Website:

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

Vet Notes Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. No Foot No Horse

.Many of us pull shoes for a time in the winter. But hopefully the horseperson has kept up with farrier care through the winter. The hoof is one body structure that can change shape dramatically. Here are some common hoof problems caused by neglect.

Toes allowed to grow too long with underslung heels:. The underslung heels tend to compress and contract. The long toes strain tendons. The coffin bone in the foot can end up at the wrong angle, with the tip up instead of down. this can take time to correct.

Excess sole depth: trimming to a normal depth can result in tender feet for awhile. This a common situation when feet are trimmed prior to a freeze

Flared walls- this can be the result of the excess growth of the wall with resultant pulling away from the underlying structures. This deforms the weigh-bearing aspect of the wall. Also the separation can lead to white line disease. WLD is a progressive hoof wall separation that occurs in the non-pigmented horn of the hoof at the junction between the stratum medium (middle layer of the hoof capsule) and laminar horn. The separation is usually progressive, and it typically involves the toe and quarters of the hoof.

These problems can take weeks to months to correct. Feet grow slower in the cold months vs warmer months so trimming isn't needed as often, but it is a mistake to let the hoof become deformed.

Even if your horse has been regularly trimmed during the winter months avoid shoeing just prior to a big ride. Give at least one shoeing cycle before a multi-day ride, or several days before a long day ride.

2021 TRAIL BOSSES

Cindy Piccolo
360-961-4839

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar
360-818-4481

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

PACKING COORDINATOR

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

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.

A Special Thank You to:
Laurel Farm & Western Supply
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Weylin & Amy Eldred
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* 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.



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: vandiest@msn.com.



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.

Mar 1, 2021---board meeting by phone conference

March general meeting pending further notice.

Hours reported in January 2021 (2--basic, 48--admin for a total of 50 hours)

- Bill McKenna
- Cindy Piccolo
- Fran Van Diest
- Helen Almojera
- Jackie Yereance
- Joe Remenar
- Letitia Wheeler
- Mike McGlenn
- Rocky Leavitt
- Roger Edmonds
- Sam Miller
- Sharon Hoofnagle
- Verna McLeod

Board Meetings

Cindy appointed a committee to review the budget for 2021. They have made their recommendations and will be sending it to the board to review at the March meeting. The budget will then be sent to the membership for approval.

When you receive the email, please review and let us know your thoughts and whether or not you approve the budget. BCHW needs a copy of the budget by the middle of March.

Fran

2021 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!

2021 Membership

You can renew your membership for 2021 now. Use the form in the newsletter. If you don't have a printer, let me know and I will mail you a membership form.

You can also renew online:

https://www.bchw.org/membership_join_or_renew.php,
be sure to include Whatcom BCH dues.

Fran



Whatcom CD offers FREE & CONFIDENTIAL farm planning for your equine property. Email Katie Pencke at kpencke@whatcomcd.org or call 360-526-2381 x 105 to schedule your visit today!

CLASSIFIED

** 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.

This report lists a number of Trailhead and Trail issues that The Whatcom Chapter Officers and Committee Chairs are working on with the agencies or property owners involved.

- Whatcom County Parks & Recreation (WCP&R) South Fork Park. The trail from the Trailhead to the Nessel Farm. The parking area at the TH is pretty complete. There is an approximately 2 mile trail that does run all around the hay field at the parking area that is rideable. The public restroom at the car parking site is open. There is a hitching rail adjacent to the restroom to tie to when using the restroom. The access gate is meant to be kept closed, but not locked. You should open it, go through, then close it behind you, both going in and out. This will help keep non-horse folks out of the horse parking area. The trail to Nessel Farm has been mostly surveyed. An easement with the DNR for the trail route is also in place. There are some issues with crossing Hutchinson Creek that are still being worked out. If they aren't worked out soon, the trail will likely be routed over the logging truck bridge that crosses the Creek then a short ride on the logging road to get to the trail that will go to the Farm.
- WCP&R, Silver Lake Horse barns and parking. We had a good meeting with the WCP&R the 1st of February on the site. Parks is building a nice new bathroom/shower facility near the first barn. We went to the second Barn for our meeting. A discussion of how the barns are laid out with the small lead in stalls led to talking about some alternate plans. The possibility of taking out some of the current stalls and making the open space into more of a picnic/meeting place. Putting pipe corrals in place of perhaps half of the small current stalls, something in the 10-12' corral size with ends that would open for ease of maintenance with power equipment. An area out in the meadow from the barns with a crushed gravel camping area with corrals, or highline poles, possible horse water spigot and several truck/trailer, truck/camper self contained camping spots so one could camp with the horse near where you are and not some distance away. These are long term projects that Parks is reaching out to us about to get our thoughts and ideas for more horse use of the area.
- DNR Red Mountain trails. During the 2 1/2 years of the DNR Whatcom County Recreation Planning Committee Red Mountain was one of the higher rated areas for non motorized trails. It is adjacent to Silver Lake Park. There are existing trails, some of which could be integrated into a formal system. DNR is also looking at a site closer to Maple Falls on a DNR logging area for a potential non motorized trailhead. This is on the southern end of Red Mountain with access off the road to Silver Lake. We have talked with DNR and WCP&R about the benefits of this area for added trails and about some connections between Maple Falls park, Silver Lake Park, Red Mountain and Heady Road's trails. We used to use this area for riding quite a bit. The long term thought would be to be able to ride from Maple Falls to Heady Road or do several lesser loop rides.
- DNR Olsen Creek/Y Road trails and trailhead. As a result of the 2 1/2 year DNR Recreation Study for Whatcom County, this area on the Y Road was the top rated non motorized site that we on the committee discussed. The major land of this spot where we have ridden for so many years was DNR. The Seed Farm and additional property had belonged to a Timber Company. With the help of BCH of Whatcom, Whatcom County Land Trust, the DNR now owns the Seed Farm acreage in addition to the previous acreage. The Y Road trailhead at the grass cap that we work on with Whatcom County belongs to Whatcom County and is a separate piece of property from the Olsen Creek Seed Farm. BCHW is involved on the steering committee for the trails and the trailheads. Many of the trails that we have worked on and ridden will be included in the DNR trail inventory. Some that don't meet good trail standards will be eliminated. Some new connector trails are on the plans to be built to make better loop trails without getting off onto some private property to the North. There will be multi use between, horses, hikers, bikers, dog walkers and folks with kids as well as plans for tying in with some school programs for the property. DNR, with the help of the user groups, including BCHW, has applied for a grant to begin this project. There have been many meetings, much discussion, and lots of negotiations getting to this stage. Once we know how the grant goes we should be able to get a better time line for the realization of this long term plan. Out further in the plan will be the ability at perhaps two separate locations to connect this system with the Lake Whatcom County Park east side of the lake trail system that BCHW has also been involved with. A major issue that is always on the plate with both the Lake Whatcom park and the Olsen Creek/Y Road area is parking. Parking for both cars and horse trucks and trailers is a most difficult step in the planning process. We also had a meeting specifically about this the 1st of February on site at the Y Road. We will be happy to share more information as it becomes available.

(Continue on Page 5)

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- Bellingham Parks & Recreation (BP&R) Arroyo Park trail repair and possible reroute. The creek in Arroyo Park along the bottom edge of the Chuckanut Mountain's North end is a Salmon stream. Trees have fallen in it and the creek has washed out sections of the trail that we have ridden down to the bridge that crosses the creek. The Salmon issue makes it more difficult to maintain the trail. We met with BP&R's New manager and discussed the trail, the lack of parking and the bridge across the creek a couple of months ago. It was a productive meeting with a show and tell of a horse truck and trailer to introduce her to horse class 101. We discussed the parking situation at Lake Padden and the trail and Bridge at Arroyo and the parking issues there. The pressures of the covid situation have put a large load on the Parks department for the City of Bellingham so more meetings have been slow coming. Hopefully when the Covid situation slows down a bit we can get deeper into some of these things with the City.
- BP&R, Arroyo Park bridge. After the meeting with BP&R, a log fell across the bridge in the gorge. It damaged the guard rails and brought the bridge issue to the forefront of problems for them. A phone meeting was done with the Repair Manager for the Park. We discussed what we, horse folks, need from the bridge for construction and safety. We discussed in the same conversation what we had found when we surveyed the bridge. We discussed some innovative methods to reroute the trail and to get materials down to the trail and the bridge without having to hand carry or use powered totes. The proposed reroute, by BCHW, would eliminate the washed out portion of the trail. The suggested methods of material transport would save money and time for repairs.
- Vedder Mountain/Heady Road trailhead. BCHW has measured the length of the trail leading out the North East corner of the trailhead. This section gets quite muddy during the spring, winter and fall. With the measurements and some thoughts between Bill McKenna, Mike McGlenn and others, the BCH Washington Grant writing person has been contacted to see about a grant to pay to turnpike this whole section to gain control on the mud and water situation on this popular stretch of trail. This new grant person has a lot of history with grants and we are hopeful she will be able to come up with one for this project even though it is on Private property.
- Vedder Mountain/Heady Road trailhead. BCHW has the privilege of access to this trailhead from the Bryce Church Camp group. The trailhead was put in some years ago and has become exceedingly popular for BCHW members as well as riders from all over the area. The trail head has aged well but the parking area is showing the use and wear. Measurements were made of the area and consulting was done with commercial contractors for ideas to bring the parking surfaces and road ways back to an improved condition. A grant proposal is being made to the grant person at BCH Washington to see about getting a grant for this regravelling of the parking area of this trailhead. In the meantime, some of us with small tractors do go up and fill the chuck holes and smooth things out.
- Vedder Mountain/Heady Road Trails. Phone meetings have been done with Bryce Church Camp and Bloedel Donovan Timber Company regarding the trails lost during the last years logging on the valley floor. The timber company is ok with our re-establishing the trails that were lost. They are also ok with us laying out a new trail on the property along Heady road opposite the Cemetery. They do not want an excavator or other heavier equipment used in doing this. We need to respect the fact that this property and the timber belongs to the Company, abide by fire season rules and route trails around the baby trees that have been planted. The issues with the new land owner to the north and east of the John Bosman trail are being addressed by John and Bryce Church Camp.

Mike McGlenn
1992 Harmony Road
Bellingham, WA 98226
360 739 2619

mikekmcglenn@gmail.com

"Ain't Nothin' Better Than Ridin' A Fine Horse In New Country" Augustus McCrae.
Live Life Like Someone Left The Gate Open!

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Contact Helen Almojera,
almojera@frontier.com or
 360-592-8080

Dear Cindy:

Please thank the membership for the little memento. It will take it's place among my other lifetime souvenirs. WBCH was one easy-to-start snowball that became an avalanche.

I no longer have any horses. However, I spend two days at Lang's Horse and Pony Farm down near Mt. Vernon. There, I water about 40 - 50 horses and saddle up one to ride out and check the trails for blowdowns and what-have-you. Once or twice a year, I stay a few days at Chewack River Guest Ranch and use one of their horses for trailriding. At 70 years of age, that just about does it for me. Plus, I don't have to deal with shoeing or veterinary concerns. Pretty sweet, yes?

My best to all and happy trails.

And thanks - again

Ben M.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Last year, Mike McGlenn was nominated for the Lifetime Achievement Award but due to Covid-19 the presentation was delayed. We have not been able to have our general meetings and it's unknown when we will be able to resume our meetings. So on Feb 6 our BCHW President Jason Ridlon made arrangements to present Mike McGlenn with his BCHW Lifetime Achievement Award at Les Hilde trailhead with a few board members present.

"Live life like someone left the gate open." is one of many quotes Mike likes to live by. Mike has held many committee chairs, numerous positions on the chapter, state and national level.

Congratulations to Mike for his many years in support of the BCH mission.

Cindy President



NEW DATE!

THE WHATCOM CHAPTER OF

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN of WA.

INVITES YOU TO OUR 23rd.
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the auction will need to be rescheduled. Melinda is gathering more information and notification will be sent at a later date.



Paid advertisement Feb 2020—Jan 2021

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2021 Calendars

The 2021 BCHW calendars are now available. If anyone wants to purchase some, they should call or email me to reserve their order.

They are the same price as last year \$15 (\$10 to the state & \$5 for the chapter).

Call me at 360-599-2526 or send me an email at wintercreek10@gmail.com.

They are also available at Laurel Farm.

Bill McKenna

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

NON-MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Come Join Us!

Go to 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**), and enclose your cash or check:

Chapter members: If paying by check, please make it out to your chapter and mail to:

**Whatcom BCH Attn: Helen
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228**



Whatcom Co.

Member Info

Check One: New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>		Secondary Chapter Application Only <input type="checkbox"/>	
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/BCHW.org or Please mail a hard copy of Newsletters (Check Boxes)

BCHA Newsletter		BCHW (Trailhead News)		Chapter Newsletter	
STATE MEMBERSHIP			CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP		
Basic Memberships			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			
Levels below include Single and Family			Chapter Name (or Independent): Whatcom Co.		
	Contributing	\$75.00			
	Sustaining	\$125.00	If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW State dues have been paid for 2021:		
	Patron	\$250.00			
	Benefactor	\$500.00			
	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00	Chapter Dues	\$10.00	
			<i>Please consider making a Chapter donation:</i>		
<i>Please consider making a State donation:</i>		\$	<i>Chapter Subtotal</i>		\$
<i>State Subtotal</i>		\$	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, under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

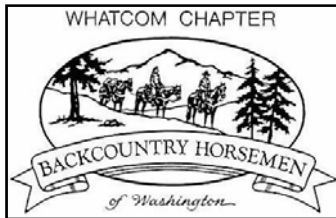
Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c) (3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Revised
9/23/2020



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



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.



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



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting:
General Meeting:
General meetings pending further notice.

**Renew your membership, help us continue to keep trails
open for all users!**

