

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter  
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

# TRAIL TALES

November 2018

**Whatcom Chapter**  
P. O. Box 28607  
Bellingham, WA 98228  
2018

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rodneyv@copper.net

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## 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.

How time flies when you have good weather, what a great October we had. It made for an awesome day at the salmon ride and for us to finish all of our project to get ready for the rainy winter months. I would like to thank everyone that worked to make the salmon ride a success. A special thanks to Helen for putting it all together and Hermon for cooking the salmon.

November, and it is election time. Not only for our state and local government officials, it is also time to elect our chapter officials. This is a wonderful organization that has good people doing great work to keep our hooved friends access to the front and back county trails. It just takes a few to help lead the meetings and keep everyone heading in the right direction. Please step up and help by being one of the leaders to make sure that we are doing the best we can.

Enough of that, Christmas is just around the corner and we are starting to plan to have the party like we did last year with the Skagit Chapter. Stay tuned the committee will let us know at the November meeting the details. I'm sorry to say but I will not be able to attend the November meet because I will be out of town.

Happy Trails,  
Rodney

**Check out our new and improved  
Website:**

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

### **Sunshine Committee**

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

**VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Head nod on the Trail**

The walk is a four-beat gait that averages 4 mph. It is the most common gait used with the mountain horse. At a walk a horse moves its head and neck in a slight up and down motion in time with the leg movement. This is called a “head nod” and it has been thought that it helps maintain balance

However a recent study in Europe brought up an interesting factor. They found that a walk it is more energy efficient if the horse can nod his head, and that walking for an extended period of time is more tiring if head movement is restricted.

**(Timing of head movements is consistent with energy minimization in walking ungulates,**” was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.)

I won’t go into the mechanics of the article-it talks about things like inverted pendulums for example, but it’s an interesting study.

So how does this apply to the trail horse? Here are some of my thoughts.

One instance that can restrict the head nod is continuous collection, or excess rein pressure The use of collection where the neck is flexed vs. a loose rein where the head and neck are extended are mostly related to what the horse is doing and most riders switch back and forth. We collect the horse when we want to direct the horse more precisely on the trail. But most of the time we let the horse have a loose rein and the head nod can occur

.However some horses have a lot of “motor”, and need constant rein pressure to slow them down. This can restrict the “nod”. Some fuss with the bit with the same result.

There might be a mismatch between a ridden horse and a pack horse, where the rider has to hold constant pressure on the lead rope of the pack horse. That could prevent the head nod

.A lameness will interfere with the amplitude of the head nod

These could be issues on longer rides. Horses often tire. We know there are sometimes issues with sleep deprivation, lack of conditioning, and sometimes lack of feed. Our horses need all the help we can give them. Restricting head movement might be another factor to consider avoiding..

**2018 TRAIL BOSSES**

Rocky Leavitt  
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar  
360-818-4481

Cindy Piccolo  
360-966-4082

Dawn Weaver  
360-739-4447

**WORK PARTY COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson  
360-599-2461

**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.

**Advertising Rates**

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

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**Free Classifieds for members!**

**Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
October 10, 2018**

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made and 2nd to approve the September 2018 minutes as published. Motion carried.

Hospitality/Guests: Terri Cedars was a guest.

Volunteer Hours: Please remember to report your hours. If you ride Blanchard or Les Hilde please send Cindy Piccolo your hours and she will submit them to the DNR for you.

Volunteer Hours: Verna reported that there were 146 volunteer hours reported this past month.

Director/Legislative: Joe reminded us that the Leadership Conference will take place in Ellensburg on 1/26/2019. Treasurers are encouraged to attend. Wine Ride on 10/26 could still use volunteers. There will be free camping and cooking for the volunteers. Note that the Rendezvous demos and clinics will be funded by the individual chapters, not the state. Bill has calendars for 2019. Electronic membership renewals are up and running, this process will improve over time. Work is being done to generate more youth programs in the hopes of encouraging having younger members sign on. Bill noted that grant work is still being done. The amount at this time is approximately \$200K. Joe brought up the Joe Watt ride in May and the possibility of our chapter hosting. Tim Surratt asked for written information containing specifics for this event.

Newsletter: Please have items to Fran by the 20th.

Work Parties/Trail Coordinator: The South Pass got brushed out last weekend. The alders along the fence at Stewart need to be trimmed. If working on this, wear orange as Hunting Season starts Saturday. Saxon will be worked on next Sunday according to Joe. Roger noted what a success the Salmon Ride was. Approximately 72 folks attended, of which 43 were members. 29 members and 29 non-members rode. It is estimated that we grossed \$1102. Jackie will provide a more accurate figure once she determines the net. Four or five new members were brought in from this event. Thank you Helen and Herman!! Joe and Cindy led a Gentlemen's club on a trail ride consisting of 20-25 riders. Horses were provided by Lang's Horse and Pony Farm in Mt. Vernon. The ride was a huge success and the club ended up donating \$120 to our chapter. The group contacted Fran to find a rider to lead the string and Joe stepped up. Cindy sent their club a thank you card for the donation.

Other Business: Elections are coming up next month and we need folks to step up for the various positions. It was decided that we would share our Christmas party with the Skagit chapter again this year. Verna is heading up a committee to arrange the party. It is time to begin planning for the Auction. Melinda will head the committee for this year's auction. Gary has auctioneers that would be available for this event.

Good of the Chapter: The 2018 BCHA Accomplishment DVD was presented.

Close: Motion to adjourn the meeting and 2nd. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Geri Surratt



# CALENDAR



**Nov 5th—Monday**

**Board Meeting at Roundtable Pizza.** Dinner at 6:00pm; meeting at 7:00pm.

**Nov 14th—Wednesday**

**General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange,** 6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, **Meeting starts at 7:00pm.** Need volunteers for treats and beverages. Let me know if you can bring something.



**Christmas Party combined with Skagit Chapter.** Verna is in the committee organizing the party. More information at a later date.

**2018 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**

Shirley Todhunter  
360-966-5206

**TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE**

Mike McGlenn  
360-739-2619

**SCRAPBOOK**

Debbie Lagerwey  
360-354-2804  
Need Pictures!

**Elections and Membership for 2019:**

HELP, WE NEED OFFICERS AND WE NEED YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Time to think about **elections** for 2019. We need officers, if you are interested in running for an office, please notify the board or let me know. Elections will be held in November, no experience needed. If you are concern that you don't know the duties, don't worry, we will help you!

**Memberships:** It's time to turn in your membership for 2019. Remember you can mail the membership form attached to this newsletter, just complete and send with your check attention to Helen Almojera, PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228 or you can rejoin online.

Fran



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.

**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.



**Salmon Fest Ride, October 6, 2018 at Heady trails**

As you can see from the pictures below, we had a great sunny day for our Salmon Fest Ride! Many riders came to take advantage of the beautiful day. There was approximate 72 people that attended this event, making it a successful fundraiser for the chapter.

The Salmon lunch was delicious and there was plenty to eat, lots of good desserts! Many thanks to Helen Almojera for organizing this ride and for Herman Almojera and Jake Dubbs for cooking the food! Thank you also to all the volunteers helping to make this event a success!

Fran





### Group Ride at Heady Trails

On 10/05/2108 Joe and I had the opportunity to guide a group of men who were staying up at Glacier for a guided trail ride. They rented horses from Lang's Horse Farm from Mt Vernon. The horses and the wranglers were very professional plus the horses were extremely well trained. We thought the men made a good choice of picking the farm for their adventure. These group of guys meet at least once a year who come from all over for a weekend of fun. Apparently they connected with Fran and Rocky which Joe and I had the opportunity to guide this group thru the Heady Road trail system. It was a beautiful day and each rider, horse and wrangler were enjoying the day and camaraderie. Joe and I were pleased to show a group of riders our neck of the woods and the hard work this club puts in for others to enjoy.

Joe and I guided approx. group of 20 for a 2.5 hour trail loop which routed to Bryce Creek Camp to give them an opportunity for a group photo on their horses. All in all everyone enjoyed the ride. In return for their great time they made a generous donation of \$120.00 to our club. Joe and I enjoyed the ride with everyone and we are hoping next year they will call on our club to do it again.

Not over-Joe and I took a short break and we adventured out to flag for the Salmon ride for the next day. Wow what great trail horses and Joe Thank You to help flag the trail for a successful event the next day. We flagged the trail for a 2.5 ride and it was fun. On behalf of Joe and I we had a wonderful, rewarding, safe and fun day.

Helen: you and your company did a fabulous job putting on a great function for all of us to enjoy.

-Cindy

-Joe Trail Bosses





NOT A MEMBER? VISIT US ONLINE

## Come Join Us!

Go to BCHW.org to join online its easier and faster! If online is not an option then print, fill out and sign the liability release (all members **18 and over**), and enclose your cash or check:

- **Chapter members:** You can renew online. If paying by check, make it out **Whatcom BCHW**, fill out an application and turn in to the Chapter Membership Chair—**Helen Almojera, PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228.**
- **Independent members** (folks who are **not** joining a chapter), make check out to "BCHW", and mail application and payment to:

**Dana Chambers ATTN: BCHW MEMBERSHIP, 11404 210<sup>th</sup> Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391**



## Member Info

New Member       Renewal – Membership number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative district (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check if you DON'T want a MAILED newsletter:**  BCHW (Trailhead News)  Chapter Newsletter

### STATE MEMBERSHIP

#### Basic Memberships

- Single      \$41.00
- Family      \$54.00

Levels below include Single or Family

- Contributing      \$75.00
- Sustaining      \$125.00
- Patron      \$250.00
- Benefactor      \$500.00

Lifetime (Single)      \$1200.00

State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)

Additional State Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

State Subtotal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CHAPTER 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.

Chapter Name (or Independent):

**Whatcom**

If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW dues have been paid for 2019:

Chapter Dues	<u>\$10.00</u>
Additional Chapter Donation	\$ _____
<i>Chapter Subtotal</i>	\$ _____
<b>Grand Total (State+Chapter)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

## 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 Back Country Horsemen of Washington, 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.

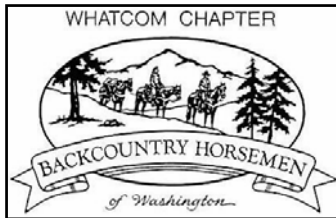
By signing this application I agree to receive notices from BCH by electronic transmission at the above email address.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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.



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



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*Next*  
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen  
*Meeting:*  
**General Meeting: November 14, 2018**  
**Laurel Community Grange**  
**6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA**  
**Meeting at 7:00pm.**  
**Treats: ?**

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

