



TRAIL TALES

September 2009

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.

We need you!

We are looking for nominations for your 2010 Officers and Committee members. Please volunteer or talk to one of your 2009 Officers if you would like to

nominate someone for one of the many positions available. If you have been sitting on the sidelines now is the time to come forward and volunteer. We really do need you!

President: Presides at all Business Meetings and shall appoint such committees that may be necessary and appropriate.

Vice President: Assists the President as needed, shall preside at meetings when the President is absent and shall act as coordinator of all committees.

Secretary: Takes care of correspondence, minutes of Business Meetings, and other records required for the operation and conduct of business.

Treasure: Maintains the financial records and Bank accounts.

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Whatcom Chapter

**P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2009**

PRESIDENT:

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4206½ Caron Rd.
Deming, WA 98244
360-391-2965

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Mike and Jenine@hotmail.com

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360-734-2567

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President's note

Alternate Director: If for some reason the Director is unable to attend such meetings the Alternate Director shall attend and report. If for some reason the Director is unable to complete the term of office, the Alternate Director shall serve the balance of said term. This would require the election of a new Alternate Director for a three year term.

Publicity Chair: Compile and edit material for advertisements and/or information for members, to include flyers announcing upcoming events, articles for "The Trail-head News", and articles to newspapers or coverage by other news media.

Trail Bosses: Oversee trail activities and will have the final judgment in matters of trail condition, safety, horsemanship, and personal conduct of the ride participants.

Newsletter Editor: Gathers information needed to publish monthly chapter newsletter.

Work Party Coordinator: Organizes club work parties

Volunteer Hours Coordinator: Records volunteer hours for all chapter members and reports to BCH of WA.

I have really enjoyed holding the office of President for the past two years but I feel that it is time for someone else to give it a try. Please call me if you are interested in any one of the positions listed above.

Thank you!

Susan

P.S. I just wanted to remind you that we will be having one more potluck meeting at the Herman Miller 4-H park. I hope to see you all on Sept. 9th.

Check out our Website:
www.Whatcom-bch.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: wbchnewseditors@msn.com or fvandiest@msn.com.

2009

TRAIL BOSSES

Adopt a ride for 2009

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR

Melinda Hardin
has agreed to be work
party coordinator
temporarily
360-312-1113

BCH minutes**General meeting minutes –August 12, 2009 Herman Miller 4 H Park**

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Sebastian at 7:00 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance the agenda was adopted and the July minutes approved as printed in the newsletter.

Hospitality: Alice Yancey –. We had 31 members and 4 guests in July. In June we had 42 members. Visitor Rick VanderMay was welcomed, he said he saw Rocky Leavitt's packing pictures in the Mount Baker Experience magazine. Michelle McKenna was welcomed.

Announcements:

Treasurer: Lynn Johnson- gave our bank balances. We have 133 members. We received \$42.35 from country Supply. She has decals and trail books for sale.

Director: Rick Olson- Forest service closures will be sent out by email. We should write in when trail systems need support, even if it is not in our area.

Finance: no requests

Legislative/trailhead: no report

LNT: Mick Blakely- Mick read the 7 principles of LNT and gave an update on Herman Miller 4H park

Volunteer hrs/ newsletter: Fran Van Diest- Fran needs volunteer hour reports monthly. We have 1521 volunteer hours for 2009, including 949 miles, power equipment: 75 hrs, stock 184 hrs. This translates for \$49,516.65 in dollar value.

Received information from Cindy Daily from Wal-mart who has made arrangements in the past for donations for our auctions. She is arranging a concert on Sept 6th. It will be for a fund-raiser for Children's Miracle Network. Passing flyer around.

Sunshine: Toni Blakely- no incidents to report

Trail Boss: Work Party Coordinator: There is no ride in August. Our Sept Hamburger ride is our next scheduled ride.

Old Business:

By-laws-Susan Sebastian has not heard back if our by-laws have been approved.

Mick Blakely is uncertain which t-posts need to be capped at Herman Miller. Sharon Hoofnagle will contact Mick on the posts she is concerned about.

NW Regional Trail Ride Challenge was on July 11th; there were over 100 adult riders and 15 kids and took in about \$1300. There were lots of prizes, including 15 bags of grain donated by Elenbaas Feed.

Rocky Leavitt has made 3 pack trips for the PNT (Pacific Northwest Trail) workers. He will be going in again Saturday and Tuesday. He has enough pack stock but would welcome riders. Daryl Weidkamp will be packing for the PNT two Saturdays in Sept.

Rocky will be riding high country trails once a week in Sept and welcomes riders.

Excelsior trail is partially washed out 4 miles in. Cheryl Brandt and Rocky went to the top of Josephine- it is 2.5 hours to the top.

John and Sage Hollins hosted a great ride at their place. They had about 30 riders. Bees had been eradicated from the trails. They may lose some of their trails if gravel companies are successful in re-classifying the land and putting in a quarry.

Ferndale Parade- Lynn Johnson- our group had 15-20 people. Sonja Wingard brought 3 girls who earned \$54 as pooper-scoopers. Rick Olson had two pack animals loaded with pop. Our group received a plaque.

Officer nominations: all positions are open. Fran is resigning as newsletter editor, after several years doing a great job.

50-50: Andy won \$17.50, \$17.50 to the club.

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General Meeting minutes

New Business

Meeting place- we don't know if Laurel Grange is available. Rick Olson moved that we have another pot-luck at Herman Miller in Sept. Motion seconded and passed. Bring coats- it may be cool.

Hamburger Ride: Verna Walker needs help. We may need a work party. Some of the trails have been re-routed near Birdsvew.

Alice Yancey reminded the members that we need to use the microphone. Sharon Hoofnagle said that the tape is needed for writing up the minutes.

Kathy Lockerbie described an incident where a horse owned by a friend fractured a leg in a trailer. He caught his leg in the stall divider. She cautioned people to check trailers for dangerous spots. The horse was operated on and should recover.

Saxon trails are closed due to fire danger.

Cheryl Brandt reminded members that a permit is needed for overnight trips in North Cascades Park and can be picked up at Marblemount. You also need a Forest Service permit at the trailhead. The McCallister area is limited to 6 sets of eyes. Most other areas are limited to 12 sets of eyes.

Susan Sebastian described Melinda, Lisa, and her trip to Haney Meadow. The trails were in great shape, the road is still treacherous. They had the Ken Wilcox camp to themselves. Mountain bikers and motorcycles have discovered the area.

Berthusen Park is closed to horses on week-ends through Sept. Trail signs were torn down at the park by vandals.

Meeting adjourned at approx 8:15

Submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle – secretary

secretary's added note: Regarding area stock rules-set of eyes is translated to one living creature- horse or human. Six sets of eyes could be one rider and 5 horses, or 3 riders and 3 horses, or I suppose 5 riders and one very large horse)

Packing in for PNT August 15, 2009

On August 15, 2009 we packed in tools and equipment for the Pacific Northwest Trail crew that is doing work on the trails. The following people went and helped out: Rick Olson, Roger Nelson, Bill and Michelle McKenna, Verna Walker and Joel Zander and his daughter Janelle and myself. We had a beautiful day, everything went fine. Packing in or out takes time to get everything situated.

We have made this trip several times, July 7th, July 18th and July 28th packing in supplies or packing out supplies.

We will be packing in again on August 25th and in September will be packing out.

If anyone is interested in helping out, please let me know.

Rocky Leavitt

CALENDAR



- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Aug 31 | Monday | Board meeting for Sept general meeting at Bob's Burger and Brew, Barkley Village. 6:00 dinner, 7:00 meeting. |
| Sept 9 | Wednesday | September general meeting will be held at the Herman Miller 4H Park, 1385 E. Hemmi Rd. Everson.
Potluck at 6:00, please bring your favorite dish to share, utensils, beverage.
Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. |
| Sept 12 | Saturday | Hamburger ride at Les Hilde to Birdsvie Restaurant. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. <u>last rider out by 10:30 a.m.</u> Since the ride is to the restaurant, they need to know how many are coming so please contact Verna Walker at 360-595-2744 or Cindy Piccolo at 360-966-4082 if you are planning to attend. |

**Hamburger Ride
September 12, 2009
Les Hilde to Birdsvie restaurant**

We'd like the first riders out at 10:00 and the last rider out at 10:30 a.m. We are hoping to have a loop tagged so riders can go back the way they came or take a different route.

Anyone interested in a trailer pool so they only have to go one way can contact Cindy or myself and we will let them know who else is interested. According to Cheryl Brandt, up to the yellow gate is passable.

Please let myself or Cindy know if you are planning to attend so we can notify the restaurant how many will be there.

Thanks,
Verna Walker

2009 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

LEGISLATIVE:

Mike McGlenn
360/966-9117

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Mick Blakely
360-332-7120

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Fran Van Diest
360-734-2567

PROGRAMS:

Sharon Hoofnagle
360/734-4258

HOSPITALITY:

Alice Yancey
360/733-5063

SUNSHINE

Toni Blakely
360-332-7120

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sam Miller
360-398-7992

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-966-9117



SAFETY



FOR SALE:

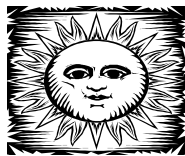
16 yr. old,
15.3h Thoroughbred
molly mule.
Usually ridden but still
needs an experienced
rider.
She has been packed
lightly in the parades.
UTD on everything and
is currently shod.
A very social girl and
she loves to have her
ears played with.
\$2,500.00 obo
Hate to part with her
but I'm just not using
her.

Contact Lynn
(360) 384-5107 or
(360) 201-8954
lljohn-
son06@comcast.net

FOR SALE: Weed
Free Hay. It is
certified from the
Radke Ranch in
Tonasket. Each bale
is marked and I also
have written
certifications
papers. \$12 a bale.
Rosemary Gustafson
Son Shine Ranch
360 380 1638

FOR SALE:

Black chaps, they
are Shotgun style
and would fit some-
one youth size with a
24-30 inch
waist. \$35.00 can
call me at 398-1418
OR
410-1312
Gary



Sunshine Committee

If you know someone that needs a little
ray of sunshine, please contact Toni
Blakely at 360-332-7120

Edward & Letitia Wheeler: Our thoughts and prayers
sent to Edward and Letitia. Edward's brother passed away
the last week of July.

Donald Peffer's family: Our thoughts and prayers sent to
Donald's Peffer's family. Donald passed away on July
7th.

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.



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.*

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!

Cowboy Campsite Presents:

'Cowboy Campus'

***The #1 place for horse lovers of all breeds & disciplines,
individuals, families, friends, groups and clubs
to come and enjoy this beautiful equine facility!***

***Huge 18,000+ sq ft clear span inside arena,
Large outside arena, 3 acre 'Cowboy Challenge'
with 28 professional training obstacles, our 'Round-Up'
Community Corral and so much more!***

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- Quality boarding & leasing packages
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- Large outside arena, round pens & training aids
- Child care while you ride, days or eves
- Member community & recreation/meeting area
- Cowboy Campsite campground guest pass privileges
- Clinics, seminars, guest speakers, safety instruction, and more!

Memberships now available!

**The 'Lone Ranger' Plan \$149.00 per month
The 'Boots & Buckles' Family Plan \$249.00 per month**

****Use of the facility for 3 hours \$20.00
or stay all day for \$39.95***

***Limited space & Memberships. Reserve your spot now!*
Contact: Duke @ (360) 922-0206 or cell; (360) 319-6236**

***Location: 1090 E. Smith Road in Bellingham
(Known as the old Papetti Pastures facility)***

Vet Notes Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M Updates on Dentistry

There was an excellent presentation on advanced dentistry at the 2008 Equine Practitioners meeting. The presenters were veterinarians who limit their practice to equine dentistry. The presentation was open to participation by the audience. There are some real interesting changes in dentistry.

All were in agreement that routine dental exams, at least once a year, are optimal for the horse. Problems can be recognized and corrected early, saving money for the owner and preventing discomfort for the horse. Removing hooks, ramps, and waves is much simpler if done early. A horse's mouth should only be held open by a full-mouth speculum for a short period of time per session. If people wait until problems are severe it may take several dental sessions to correct the problem

However there have been changes in other areas. A "bit seat" is a procedure where the 1st cheek teeth are rounded to prevent discomfort from the bit. This procedure is no longer recommended. Not only is it not necessary but the tooth may be damaged. Taking the sharp edge off the front of the tooth is ok but excessive removal of tooth substance can kill the tooth. In the same line of thinking reducing the canines is not recommended. The canine is the single tooth in the space where the bit lies, present in males horses but missing or very small in mares. Some equine dentists have been reducing these to gum level. Riders like this because it is easier to place and remove the bit .However there is a possibility that the tooth will then die and have to be extracted. They have a long curved root and are difficult to extract.

If dentistry is performed on a horse the mouth should look like no dentistry was done. That sounds contradictory so I will explain. Excess rounding or lowering should not be apparent. The mouth should look like a normal equine mouth, without hooks, ramps, or excessively sharp points, but with normal slants and a ridge along both the upper and lower molars. Horses' teeth are not designed to be smoothly rounded.

**Skyline Divide ride
Saturday, August 22, 2009**

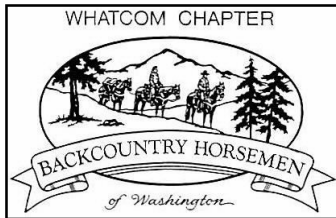
The trip went well. We had five riders; Rosemary Vohs, Monica Uruchurtu, Roger Nelson, Rick Olson, and myself. We had two loaded pack horses. The big tree that we were going to cut out had already been done so we concentrated mostly on lopping off branches. This had not been done in years. By the time we reached the meadows my arms had had enough. There was a lot of cutting. What didn't get done is along the top of the ridge. That can be another day.

The trail itself is in great shape. At the top of the ridge we headed south towards Mt. Baker up and down the hiker trail. It wasn't laid out for horses but can be rode ok. The trail ends in a nice big meadow over looking Dead Horse creek. From there we headed up the steep meadow, crisscrossing our way up the steep mountain ridge. After gaining the right altitude we went cross country towards Baker on an old and very faint trail my father had made in the early sixties to hunt for goats. Going across steep side hills and loose shale slides on narrow trails reminded me once again how good it is just to be alive and be able ride the high country on a horse or mule. The beauty of the mountains and the deep valleys is deafening. The vastness can swallow you up. It is an experience I wish all our members could have.

Rocky Leavitt

Another idea that I was thinking of is: I was wondering about doing a mini endurance ride up the Hannegan trail. Perhaps a thirty or so mile trip in and out in a day. The trail there can be done by almost everyone. Let me know if there is any interest.

Rocky Leavitt



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



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Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:
General Meeting:
September 9, 2009
Herman Miller 4H Park, 1385 E. Hemmi Rd. Everson
Potluck at 6:00 bring your favorite dish to share!
Meeting at 7:00

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

