



# TRAIL TALES

April 2011

## 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.

### APRIL 2010

**April is here and it's time to ride.** Brush the mud off those critters and get going! Roger reported that the work party and picnic at Heady was a success in spite of the rain. A big thank you to those who could make it. On any given day lots of people ride at Heady. It's hard for me to understand it, but I guess a lot of riders love riding on flat trails. I took a look around the Silver Lake horse barns and the Park Department has done a fair amount of work around them. They also have gravel piles there waiting for us to spread. We need to get a work party date set up for that.

**Bring the children and grandchildren.** The Easter ride is coming. Big thanks to Tony and company for getting behind this event. Every thing we do takes people behind the scenes putting it together. This is our big deal for the little people in our lives. When Aaron was little, I think our most fun game was the egg toss. You haven't lived a complete life until you have a raw egg coming at you from fifty feet away and you have to try and catch it. Give Tony a call if you know how many kids you can bring and if you can help some.

**Major community event coming April 23-** Confidence Builder ride at Virgil and Cheeta Stremers. If you're new to the club this is the event where we have a lot of fun with horses that are somewhat less than fully trained. Don't bring the completely green ones. Make sure you can handle them. Invite your riding friends and 4Her's to come and remember to let us know how many are coming. We will have creek bridges to cross and many fun games and challenges to do with your horse. Of course you can bring your fully trained animal. If you know of a fun game and would like to help, let me know. My hope is that people will come forward with ideas so we can add a few new events to our other games.

(Continue on Page 2)

### Whatcom Chapter

P. O. Box 28607  
Bellingham, WA 98228  
2011

#### PRESIDENT:

Rocky Leavitt  
1842 Iron St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-676-9533

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

Bill McKenna  
9253 Mt. Baker Hwy  
Deming, WA 98224  
360-599-2526

#### DIRECTOR:

Rick Olson  
5180 Penny Ln.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
360-398-1309

#### ALTERNATE DIRECTOR:

Mick Blakely  
PO Box 1455  
Blaine, WA 98231-1455  
360-332-7120

#### SECRETARY:

Kathy Adams  
1041 E. Axton Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
360-398-9928

#### TREASURER:

Shirley Todhunter  
5999 Fazon Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
360-966-5206

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

**President's notes**

*(Continue from Page 1)*

**Personal note section-** just looking over the events we have planned for this summer could almost wear a guy out. My wife tells me that in the months of July and August, my extended family has at least five weddings planned. Of course four of them are on Saturdays. My point is that we all have a life outside of our club. However, as much as possible I don't like to miss anything but the reality is that we all have to pick and choose what we can or can't do. If you are new to the club or if you've been around a while and not used to doing much, I want to encourage you to come out and get your hands dirty. The friends that you will make will enrich your life beyond your belief.

Rocky

**2011  
TRAIL BOSSES**

Cindy Piccolo  
360-966-4082

Roger Nelson  
360-599-2461

Tara Wigg  
360-966-7050

Also can adopt a ride  
for 2011

**WORK PARTY  
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson  
360-599-2461

**Check out our Website:  
<http://www.Whatcom-bch.com/>**

**Programs at the General Meetings**

(From Sharon Hoofnagle) Many members have commented on the excellent DVD on Defensive Horsemanship shown at the last meeting. Thanks to Rick Olsen for obtaining the DVD. Rick also provided the club with a 2nd one on " Be considerate of Others" that will be shown later .. Thank you Rick for all your work.

Also if you have some ideas of programs that would be of interest to the Chapter, please let Sharon Hoofnagle know about it. She will see what she can do.

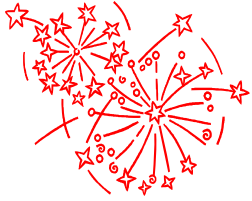
Fran

**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](mailto:wbchnewseditors@msn.com) or [fvandiest@msn.com](mailto:fvandiest@msn.com).

# CALENDAR



**April 4      Monday**

**Board meeting** at Bob's Burger & Brew, 6:00 dinner (optional), meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**April 9      Saturday**

**"Fun Party" at Virgil Stremmer's place, 9480 Van Buren Rd. Lynden. Be ready to work at 10:00 a.m.** Bring your gloves, loppers, rake and anything else you think may help to get the place ready for the Confidence ride. No horses needed.

**April 13      Wednesday**

**General Meeting** at Laurel Community Grange. Meeting starts at **7:00 p.m.** Treats: Roger Nelson, Lori Hunt and Ron Snyder. Lori is bringing cookies.

**April 15      Friday**

**Men's Night out at Lynden Fairgrounds.** Roy Van Diest, Gary Anderson, Roger Nelson, Mick Blakely, Don Pullar, Rocky Leavitt, John Hollins and Rodney Vander-sypens will be there with a booth and couple of stock.

**April 16      Saturday**

**Easter Egg Ride at Heady trails.** Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. There will be a \$3.00 fee donation for the eggs. Come, bring the kids, have fun finding all the eggs!

**April 23      Saturday**

**Confidence Builder Ride.** Starts at 10:00 a.m. Chili (regular and vegetarian) and hot dogs will be served for a donation of \$5.00 per person. Bring your friends and see how they do with the different obstacles.

## **2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

### **LEGISLATIVE:**

Mike McGlenn  
360/966-9117

### **LEAVE NO TRACE:**

Mick Blakely  
360-332-7120

### **VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Verna Walker  
360-595-2744

### **PROGRAMS:**

Sharon Hoofnagle  
360/734-4258

### **HOSPITALITY:**

Alice Yancey  
360/733-5063

### **SUNSHINE**

Lori Hunt  
384-0704

### **TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE**

Mike McGlenn  
360-966-9117

## **Auction Committee**

The auction committee has been meeting and making arrangements for the auction.

Our auction will be held on **May 20, 2011 at the Everson Auction Barn.** The Café will be open for dinner.

Mark your calendars and come have a good time.

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: 8:30 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.

# CONFIDENCE BUILDER RIDE

**Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen of WA. is having their 10th Annual**

**Confidence Builder Ride on Saturday,**

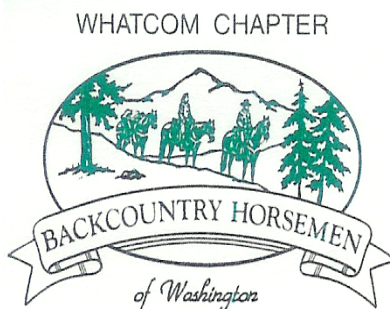
**April 23, 2011 at Virgil Stremmer's place,  
9480 Van Buren Rd, Lynden.**

**Starts at 10:00 a.m.**

**Last rider out by noon. You can continue with the obstacles after lunch on your own.**

**Chili (regular & vegetarian) and hot dog lunch served at 12:30 for \$5.00 donation per person, children 6 and under free. You are invited to bring your horse to the ride, there will be bridges, water crossing, logs, tarps, puncheon bridge, llamas and other obstacles. It is intended for horses with some experience. Please do not bring totally green horses. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult and wear a helmet. Lots of help and support available. Come join us for some fun!**

**Directions: From Bellingham take Guide Meridian, going north continue until you come to WA546--E. Badger Rd, turn right and continue for approx 10 miles until you come to Van Buren Road (it's the first road after you cross the tracks), turn left on Van Buren Rd, Lynden, parking place will be on your right, you will see horse trailers.**



**For more info, contact Fran Van Diest at 360-734-2567**

## VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Ear Problems

Hey doc, my horse won't let me brush his ears. He ducks his head when I bridle him. I think his ear might be infected, or maybe he was abused by his former owner.

This is a common call received by equine practitioners. Here are some facts.

Most foals don't like their ears touched. However many horses love to have the inside of the pinna ( the erect part of the ear) lightly scratched or the outside rubbed. But it takes a little time and patience to get any age horse used to this. Some horses just don't like their ears touched. Some will tolerate it with training but still mildly object. If the objection is mild but the horse can be haltered and bridled it is probably a behavior problem. However it is always advised to have an exam to rule out more serious problems. The horse will need to be sedated to examine deep in the ear or to take cultures or swabs

Restraining a horse by grabbing an ear and twisting it is a big mistake. This can not only permanently damage the ear but can result in behavior problems, what we call an ear-shy horse.

Fortunately ear infections are rare in the horse because they hate to have medications applied deep in the canal. Squirting any kind of liquid in the ear can result in quite a violent response. In addition it is almost impossible to remove a medication or re-medicate without deep sedation if there is an adverse response to a treatment.

Ear mites are rare in our area but can occur. Lice rarely penetrate deep in the ear. Ear ticks are common in other areas but rare on the coastal areas of Washington.

There are three conditions that are quite common in our area.

Aural plaques are caused by a virus that infects the inside of the pinna. It appears as whitish plaques. They do not cause any discomfort and it is recommended not to treat them

Tiny biting black flies are a major problem. They can irritate the pinna, resulting in sores, scabs and bloody crusts. The horse may shake his head and try to rub his ears. While being ridden they can be distracted to the point of being dangerous. Owners should avoid clipping the hair inside the ears, the hair helps protect against the flies. Carefully apply fly repellent as often as needed to prevent the problem.

Sarcoid tumors are a non-cancerous growth that can occur anywhere on the body but commonly are found on or around the ears. If they are large they can cause discomfort when the ear moves, or can be irritated by the bridle.

There are several problems with the middle or inner ear. Fortunately they are rare. Excessive head shaking, a head tilt, or staggering are a few signs of a middle or inner ear problem

The most common sign of a problem that needs treatment is persistent head shaking, rubbing of the ears, or violent objection to touching the ears A diagnosis should be made by a veterinarian. Trying different medications off the shelf can be dangerous for the horse and human.

**Don't Forget!**  
**Auction, Friday, May 20, 2011 at the Everson Auction Barn!**



# EASTER EGG RIDE

**Backcountry Horsemen, Whatcom Chapter is having their Easter Egg ride on April 16, 2011 at the Heady Rd trails. There will be a \$3.00 donation entry fee, children under 10 free. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m.**

**Chili and hot dog lunch will be served.**

**Minors must wear helmets, children 3-5 years of age can ride double. Please take a halter and lead rope along. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Come join us for a 2 hour leisure ride and then have fun looking for the colorful eggs and prizes!**

Directions: Drive towards Everson, take the South Pass Road to Heady Road, turn left and continue to parking area.

Contact Toni Blakely at 360-332-7120 for more information.



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# Come Join Us! Jan 1—Dec 31, 2011

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

**Chapter members**, turn application and payment in to **Whatcom BCH Chapter Treasurer, Shirley Todhunter, 5999 Fazon Rd. Bellingham, WA 98226**

**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--(State)-Membership number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FOR CHAPTER USE ONLY**

Date Pd. \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

### State Membership

**Basic Membership:**

<b>Single</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$49.00</b>

Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)

Contributing	\$65.00
Sustaining	\$100.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00

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

### Chapter Membership

WHATCOM CHAPTER



**Chapter Name:** (or Independent):

**Whatcom**

**Chapter Dues**

(determined by Chapter)

**\$10.00**

Additional Chapter Donation: +\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal (**from left column**): +\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand total from left column & right column=\$** \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 where ever 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.

- Do you want your name, address and phone number listed on the Whatcom membership list? \_\_\_\_\_
- If you wish to only have part of the information listed, please indicate what you want listed \_\_\_\_\_



**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: April 13, 2011**  
**Laurel Community Grange,**  
**6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA**  
**Meeting at 7:00**  
**Treats: Roger Nelson, Lori Hunt & Ron Snyder**

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

