



TRAIL TALES

January 2012

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.

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2012

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9253 Mt. Baker Hwy
Deming, WA 98244
360-599-2526

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PO Box 715
Maple Fall, WA 98266-0715
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Fran Van Diest
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360-734-2567

Let me introduce myself. To many of you I'm a "Johnny come lately" but the truth is, between the Skagit chapter and ours, I've been a member for a dozen years or more. Not very active of course, but I liked what BCH stood for, what the organization did and where it put its money. I kept paying my dues, went to the auctions, attended a meeting or two a year but focused on my job and raising a family. I sat on the sidelines. Retiring nearly four years ago I decided to get more involved. I started riding with Rocky and others, attended meetings on a regular bases and took part in as many work parties and functions as I could. I've enjoyed the experience and feel that it is time for me to step up.

I'm a carpenter by trade starting out in New England building barns and silos then moved on, starting my apprenticeship, building new homes and reinventing period homes. Before I could finish the apprenticeship I was drafted and picking my poison, I joined the Navy, got into a builders school to become a builder in the Sea-Bees. I served in Adak, Alaska for a year and three hours then went overseas to Vietnam. After the service I stayed in Washington working construction from Ferndale to Tacoma. I started to go to school on the GI bill eventually graduating from Western with a degree in education.

- As a result, I've spent most of my career in education. More specifically Career Education teaching drafting, wood shop and Diversified Education at Sehome High School, Career exploration on the Lummi Reservation and tough Apprenticeship classes at BVTI. Eventually I became a training coordinator for the North West Carpenters then Training Director for W. WA and N. Idaho. During that time I chaired a number of meetings and committees. I believe these experience will help in my tenure as president of Whatcom BCH.

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President's Notes

I agreed to take on the presidency because my experiences has taught me a thing or two about Roberts Rules of Order and how to keep a meeting focused. I hope to energize members like myself who have sat on the sidelines and convince them to step up and get more involved. This is a great chapter with a whole bunch of seasoned members who are willing to contribute but want others to step up and lead. I'm ready to do my part and want to engage anyone and everyone who is ready to do the same.

In closing I'd to acknowledge and thank Rocky Leavitt for his contributions especially the last two years as president. When it comes to "True Back Country" riding he is unmatched. His dedication to BCHW and its mission is unequaled. He leaves big shoes to fill. I'm counting his continued activity and support.

Bill McKenna

2012
TRAIL BOSSES

Roger Nelson
 360-599-2461

Tara Wigg
 360-966-7050

Lance Weaver
 360-739-8404

Also can adopt a ride
 for 2011

WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR

Roger Nelson
 360-599-2461

Paid Advertisement— January 2012—June 2012

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

Director's Report

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

It's been a pretty good year for the Back Country Horseman of Washington. We maintained 35 chapters and 2500 – 3000 members. The Whatcom Chapter has the most memberships of all chapters. The new calendar/raffles fundraiser went pretty well for the 1st year. Which reminds me, for those who purchased raffles for themselves or for gifts, you need to send in raffle card. The 1st drawing is Jan. 15, 2012. For those that haven't yet bought raffle tickets, our treasurer still has some. You can't win if you don't play!

Notes from December 3rd Directors Meeting in Ellensburg.

The budget for 2012 will include a part time Executive Director, whose primary duty will be increasing revenue mainly through corporate sponsors and increasing memberships. We are moving forward with use of Facebook and other social media. Our goal is to increase revenue, membership, and decrease the average age of our members.

The Rendezvous March 2012 will be at Kittitas County Fairgrounds, in Ellensburg. The information and registration are in the Trail Head News.

State Awards: We still have a month to send a letter for nomination. I know we have one or more people that are deserving of an award. Categories and other information about awards are in the Trail Head News (call or email me).

LNT: Be thinking about taking a basic LNT course April 14 & 15 Randle, Wa or advanced course this year.

SAFETY- new DVD available and another coming soon.

Coming soon "packing chat group" keep packers and packing needs and other chapters work parties, projects etc.

Legislative Day is Monday January 23 in Olympia. Wear cowboy hats to let the legislatures know where there and we will let them know what our issues. Let me know if you are interested in going down.

The new State President is Bob Gish and Vice President is Tryge Culp.

I'll explain more what BCHW does for us at the next meeting. As always, call or email with any question, comments, or ideas.

Rick Olson

Director Whatcom Chapter of BCHW

DUES ARE DUE!

This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed your dues for 2012, so please renew your dues now to avoid any delays in your newsletter.

Remember to complete a membership form and have all adults sign form. We need a new membership form completed each year. Please return form with payment to Shirley Todhunter at 5999 Fazon Road, Bellingham, WA 98226.

Dues are \$46.00 for one person and \$59.00 for a family.

Board meetings and General Meetings for 2012

Board meetings are usually on Mondays— General Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month

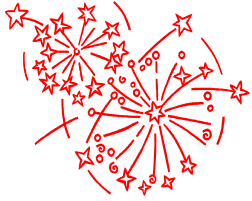
January 2 ,2012	January 11, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
January 30, 2012 for Feb	February 8, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
March 5, 2012	March 14, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
April 2, 2012	April 11, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
April 30, 2012 for May	May 9, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
June 4, 2012	June 13, 2012—Herman Miller 4H Park
July 2, 2012	July 11, 2012—Herman Miller 4H Park
July 30, 2012 for Aug.	August 8, 2012—Herman Miller 4H Park
(Sept 3 is Labor day) Bill will decide on date	Sept 12, 2012—Herman Miller 4H Park
Oct 1, 2012	October 10, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
Nov 5, 2012	Nov 14, 2012—Laurel Community Grange
Dec 3, 2012	No meeting Christmas Party to be announced.

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: wbcnewseditors@msn.com or fvandiest@msn.com.

CALENDAR



January 1, 2012—Sunday

New Year's Day ride at Heady trails. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Rocky Leavitt, Gary Anderson and Therese Jones will be bringing some type of soup, so there will be a variety. Please bring a dish to go with the soups—desserts, bread, cornbread, crackers, etc and your own beverages.

January 2, 2012—Monday

Board Meeting at Bob's Burger & Brew on Barkley Village. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. (optional), meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 11, 2012-Wednesday

General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: Roger Edmonds from Sunset Park.

2012 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

LEGISLATIVE:

Rick Olson
360-398-1309

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Mick Blakely
360-332-7120

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Verna McLeod
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

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.



How about adopting a ride!

If you have time, want to go riding and have a place in mind, adopt a ride.

Give Roger Nelson a call or send him an email at rogerramjet1961@hotmail.com and let him know you would like to adopt a ride.

It can be at Heady, Stewart, Blanchard, Saxon, or someplace else, you can decide how long of a ride and when you would like to do the ride.

Fran



FOR SALE:

I have(2) 15" saddles that I need to sell. \$375 obo. each. I am also looking for a comfy/safe trail saddle that is a 16" (leather). My boys have put grown the smaller saddles. Maybe someone would want to trade??? Thanks,
Margaret
354-0389

FOR SALE:

Black 1988, heavy duty XLT Lariat, V8 Ford diesel pick-up. 7.3 liter engine, with 61,000 miles, exceptional shape, family owned. \$4,000.00

Please call Diane Vyskocil, 319-6646, if interested.

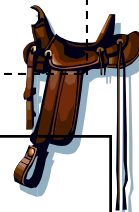
FOR SALE:

Name Bo
Gender Gelding
Breed ½ Arab – ½ paint
Height 14.3 true measurement not a lie or a guess
Born Sept 11, 2001
Color Bay and White Pinto
Not just a pretty face. He is gorgeous, Arabian and pinto all rolled into one. But that is not all. He has a great mind. Smart like an Arab but level headed like a Quarter Horse. He aims to please and learns fast. Lots of trail experience, fit and ready for competitive trail or just going where you want to go. Competed successfully in Competitive Mounted Orienteering. Will cross water, bridges, rocks logs etc. Will lead, follow or go out alone. Could be an eye catcher in the show ring or a great 4H mount. No bad habits, no buck, rear or big spook. Good feet, excellent ground manners. A real teddy bear who will stay and keep you company while his equine buddies run out to play. Good for the shoer, will load in any trailer. Come hug and ride to appreciate.

Contact Jackie
360 671-7764
jjyy@earthlink.net

Sunshine Committee

If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact
Lori Hunt 360-384-0704



Horse Partnership:

Hello fellow members of BCH. My name is Ron Snyder, and I am looking for someone in a similar time crunch that I am experiencing. My wife and I own the Circle of Trees Studio and Homestead, and we have a nice place for one horse full time, and perhaps two horses for the short term.

Here is the problem: I am away several times a year, and caring for a horse full time will not work out. If you would be interested in sharing a horse, or working out an arrangement where we could spell each other when we need to be away, I'd be very interested. If this type of arrangement sounds interesting, please contact me at (360) 332-8082, or circleoftrees@wildblue.net.

There may be a number of ways that time on task, and responsibility could be shared, especially if you also own a horse property, and cannot be a full time horse owner.

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!

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.

Well our Christmas party was a great success!

When I got home I counted the people that were there and I came up with 72, now this was just from memory so I figured I probably missed a few so I think it's safe to say we had approximate 75 at our party. I think this is the most we have had at the Christmas party!

It takes a lot of work and cooperation from everybody to make this a great fun time.

Thanks to Gary Anderson, Walden Haines and Roy Van Diest for providing the extra heaters, the place was toasty, I think at times a little too hot.

Thank you to Gary for providing the portable outside lights, no one had any problems finding their way in or out!

I want to thank Rodney Vandersypen and Carol Ketchum for cooking the turkeys and to Gary Anderson for cooking the ham. Great job!

Thank you to everybody else for bringing a dish to share. There was lots of delicious food! And of course lots of desserts, plus a big cake that Angie Schutte and Alice Ann Yancey brought to celebrate Whatcom BCH 25th anniversary.

Rocky Leavitt introduced our speakers:

We also celebrated Whatcom BCH 25th anniversary, Alice Ann Yancey gave a brief history of our Chapter and introduced guest Ron Mazza. Ron was the president at that time and started the Chapter 25 years ago! Thanks Ron for coming!

Mike McGlenn briefly spoke of the National BCH and Rick Olson gave a brief director's report.

Rocky also gave out the chevrons and patches for those who have turned in their volunteer hours and earned chevrons. The 50 hour chevron earned by Andy McLeod, Ann Leonard, Carol Ketchum, Deb Logan, George Leonard, Margaret Hamstra, Michelle McKenna and Rodney Vandersypen. The 100 hour chevron earned by Cheeta Stremmer, Debbie Lagerwey, John Hollins, Lance Weaver and Shirley Todhunter. The 200 hour chevron earned by Alice Yancey, Bill McKenna, Tara Wigg and Virgil Stremmer. The 1,000 hour chevron earned by Fran Van Diest. Minor hours for 2011 were: Erin Vandersypen: 21.5 hours, Anne Marie Vandersypen: 32.5 hours, Jeff Hamstra: 47.5 hours, Jennessy Allen: 7.5 hours, Kelsey Lagerwey: 15.0 hours, Ryan Hamstra: 64.5 hours, Shane Hamstra: 42.5 hours and Willie Nelson: 21.0 hours.

Thank You to all who reported their hours to Verna.

We also had great music provided by Mick and Toni Blakely and granddaughter Jennessy, Leroy and Debbie Lagerwey, Joan Vandersypen and her daughter Anne Marie.

Afterwards was the gift exchange.....with lots of stealing going on!
Everybody had a great time!

Also thank you to all of you that brought food and toys for the less fortunate. Once again you were all very generous, so Thank You Very Much!

Thank you to Debbie Lagerwey and Pam Ritter for making the beautiful swags decorating the tables and on the walls and also to Lance Weaver for the his swags on the walls. The centerpieces on the tables were given to members to take home.

Last but not least thank you to the decorating committee: Rocky, Linda and Aaron Leavitt, Roger Nelson, Nancy Girodano, Linda and Dave Lunstroth, Therese Jones, Debbie Lagerwey, Pam Ritter, Lance and Susan Weaver and us Roy and Fran.

Special Thank you to everybody for staying and helping clean up! It didn't take long to get everything put away and hauled to the vehicles!

Great job everybody!

Fran

Heady Trails Work Party

On December 17, 2011 with 7 WBCH and 9 members of the Chuckanut Bay under 19 Rugby Club proceeded to work on the Vedder Mtn. Trail System. Flanked by rocky Leavitt as the lead man.

We are grateful for Margaret Hamstra who was able to open the gate by which we were able to gain closer access to the trails.

The club provided the boys with weed wachers, loppers and helmets. The boys were spilt in teams of two. While we were all working together we put in 55 hours of trail work our success of clearing and cleaning 2 segments of the trail systems which will provide a safer riding for all of us.

We had a small lunch break on top of a rock that had vista views of Mt. Baker, Canada and the Kendall Valley.

We ended the work party with a post meal at the Gazebo with our "set you free" chili, cornbread and cookies.

We thank the Chuckanut Bay under 19 Rugby club for their hard work. Also thanks to Rocky Leavitt, Roger Nelson, Bill and Michelle McKenna, Margaret Hamstra, Verna Walker, Therese Jones for their hard work and participation to make this Pilot Program a successful event.

Roy and Fran Van Diest worked on the trails at Heady, worked on the trail by the camera corner. Gary Anderson also showed up and helped with the chain saw to cut and clear downed trees on the trail and also worked on the trail heading towards the yellow gate.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Cindy Piccolo Trail Boss

Vet Notes for the Holidays Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.

Here a few timely hints

There is nothing dangerous that reindeer can transmit to your horse. It is safe to let them drink out of your water trough

You don't need to leave a spare hoof boot out for them, most of the time they are airborne and don't need them

Don't leave 5 lbs of carrots out, that is too much for them

Your horses may have a desire to fly for a few days- this tendency will pass (for most)

Two eggnogs is the max for your horse if he has equine metabolic syndrome, 3 for others

If your horse has not been trained and cannot walk a straight line (you know who you are) you may be pulled over for DUI. Caution- horses hate breathalyzers and have been know to react violently

A child's Christmas list: a pony of their own. A horses Christmas list- a person of their own

As we gather around our Christmas trees, our gifts, our wonderful friends and good meals, our horses are in the most precious place in the world to both them and much of the world- around a manger.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**NO-N
MEMBERSHIP-APPLICATION**

January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012

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 your Chapter Treasurer*. If paying by check, make it out **to your chapter**.

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:	

STATE MEMBERSHIP			CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP	
Basic Membership			Chapter Name (or Independent): Whatcom	
	Single	\$36.00		
	Family	\$49.00	Chapter Dues (determined by chapter) \$10.00	
Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)				
	Contributing	\$65.00	Additional Chapter Donation \$	
	Sustaining	\$100.00		
	Patron	\$250.00		
	Benefactor	\$500.00		
	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00		
State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)				
Additional State Donation \$				
	<i>Subtotal A</i>	\$	Grand Total (A+B) \$	

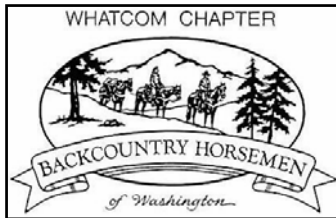
LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

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 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: January 11, 2012
Laurel Community Grange,
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA
Meeting at 7:00

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

