



TRAIL TALES

March 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.

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2011

PRESIDENT:

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Bellingham, WA 98225
360-676-9533

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360-599-2526

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Fran Van Diest
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360-734-2567

MARCH 2011

Coming up when you receive this letter is our chance to sound off at a county council meeting in Acme. Bodies count. Try to get as many members and friends there as possible. The horse park is a long time in coming project. In the arena of ideas, persistence is what will pay off. In time, this park will be a real asset to multiple user groups.

Big event coming up- Saturday March 12 is our big yearly kickoff at the Heady road Church camp. We need all hands on deck. Check your garage for tools. If you come empty handed, it's hard to do much work. Some will need to come without horses and do work by walking the close in trails. It would be a big help if you could e-mail the trail boss and let him know what you can do. We will also be looking to do a pre-ride to see what's needed to be done.

Personal note section- this past weekend we were at the Tacoma dome with our son Aaron and the rest of his wrestling team. Aaron has trained for five years for his shot at the title. In the end it was not to be. Both of the boys he wrestled looked like they were recently imported from the Neanderthal region of France. I think he wrestled for a total of seven or eight minutes. Every kid that turns out in the seventh or eighth grade is programmed to work hard to get to go to state. For all these years he has ran and or lifted weights nearly daily including during the summer to get his shot. When he got up from the mat for the last time, his face was beat in from repeated slams to the mat, his shoulders were ripped apart, and his left knee so swollen he could hardly walk. He got up and hobbled over and shook the opponents hand and the opponents coach's hand, and walked off the mat for the last time. I was so proud of him for the way he held his head up and kept his emotions in check. I could barely talk, I think I have some of my mother's emotions. Other kids when they lost burst out crying and throwing things. Later, when I had my own emotions in check, I told him that I wouldn't be more proud if he had won or less proud that he lost.

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President's Notes

I know that some may ask- Why do I include stories like the one above. First, It's not to glorify me or Aaron. We don't need that. It comes from my belief that good character is developed first in the home. Someone once said that the family that plays together stays together. I have chosen horses and mules to be my main family hobby. With all my sons including Aaron I have spent thousands of hours over the years investing in his life and having a good time along the way. We have shared good trails and bad. Frigid weather and good. I believe this has helped to give him the tools for his life to come. And I think it has contributed to his can do attitude.

This is the start of my ninth year in BCH. Many of you have contributed to Aaron's character building, and I thank you for that. Now that I'm out of sons, who's going to do all the work around here? Hopefully, Linda will start lifting weights so she can lift the bales....

Rocky

P.S.- Now this is bragging. Aaron did win the individual state academic championship for his weight class. It means that out of the sixty four schools in the 2A class, he had the best GPA in the 189lb division. He takes a full load of Chemistry, Physics, English, and Spanish. Makes me pass out just thinking about that much work. I'm just happy when I can get out of bed and get to work on time!

**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>**

Easter Egg Ride April 16, 2011 at Heady Trails

Our Easter egg ride will be on April 16th, haven't decide yet if it will be a potluck or just an Easter egg hunt. More information at a later date.

Toni Blakely will be getting the eggs ready, so if anyone is able to help out, please let her know.

Also if you are willing to donate a package of wrapped small candies to be put in the plastic eggs, please bring to the next meeting and give to Toni.

If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to make this ride a more fun ride, please notify the trail bosses: Cindy Piccolo, Roger Nelson or Tara Wigg.

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 or fvandiest@msn.com.

BCHW Whatcom Chapter General Meeting Minutes February 9, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Laurel Community Grange.

There was a correction to the January minutes; the funds approved for Heady Road were not for a parking lot, but for a widening of the shoulders in order to park some more trailers. A motion to approve the January minutes as corrected was made, seconded, and approved by the membership.

Hospitality: Alice Yancey: Same visitors as last meeting

Guest Speaker/Program: Michael Mahaffey from Skagit Chapter did not come.

Report of Officers:

Treasurer: Shirley Todhunter - gave report on expenses, further information upon request.

Director: Rick Olson - LNT training class has limited spaces. Aldergrove, BC chapter is having a ride on the Pacific Coast Trail to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Manning Park. He encouraged people to attend the Rendezvous

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Mike McGlenn - Spoke about possibility of fees for public lands usage.

LNT: Mick Blakely - not present

Newsletter : Fran Van Diest - Turn in articles by February 20th.

Sunshine Committee: Lori Hunt - Sent two cards

Trailhead: Mike McGlenn/Sam Miller - Mike gave an update on trailhead/park issues. Sam attended a meeting the previous day. They are preparing for 3/1 meeting in Acme. Make sure you, friends, and neighbors attend as well as letting other trail riders know.

Trail Boss: Roger Nelson/Cindy Piccolo/Tara Wigg - Roger combined report with Work Party report

Volunteer Hours: Verna Walker verna@nas.com - Rocky mentioned the people and hours volunteered in Jan'11.

Work Party Coordinator: Roger Nelson - There was a proposal regarding signage for our pack boxes and a discussion. The cost would be \$27 for the first and \$15 for each subsequent one. A motion was made to buy six banners for pack boxes. It was seconded and passed by the membership. Roger and Rick reported on their meeting at DNR re: Les Hilde and Blanchard. There will be a FFE (fun, food and exercise) party on 3/12 at Heady road with potluck.

President's Pilot Program: Rocky is in contact with one group to use as experiment.

Unfinished Business:

South Fork Park Meeting: County Council Meeting March 1st in Acme at the school @6:00

Confidence Ride:

LNT Training; See above

Auction: Bill McKenna has volunteered to chair an auction committee. A list was sent around asking for committee members.

Ride Schedule: The Ferndale Parade is July 30. John and Sage will be hosting a ride on August 13.

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General Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2011

Coffee Fund: \$23 was donated to the coffee fund.

New Business:

Budget: A motion was made to pass the budget as written and seconded. There was then discussion that the Auction projected Gross figure should be reduced to \$7,000. The original motion was tabled and a motion to modify the Auction Gross figure to \$7,000 was made, seconded and passed by the membership. There was a motion to approve the budget as modified which was seconded and approved by the membership.

NW Regional: Next meeting is 2/25. There will be a work party at Les Hilde on 6/11 and 7/9 is the possible date for their fund raising ride. Peace, Love and Horse Power is the theme. They are looking for project(s) to fund for this year.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Adams, Secretary.

Email received February 21, 2011 from Louise Caywood deadline to sign up for the **LNT Basic Skills classes**. Get your reservations in. These classes will not be repeated this year.

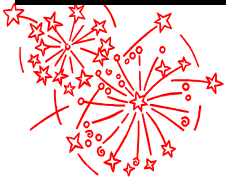
April 9 & 10 Lewis Co BCHW hosts @ the Cowlitz Ranger Station in Randle WA.

Explore ever increasing LNT practices and meet our new instructors. Consume scrumptious Dutch Oven meals prepared by the famous Lewis Co cooks. Bring your camper or nestle into the forest service bunks. Hot showers and indoor plumbing available to all. contact: Doc & Deb Wesselius 360-736-6106 or weselius@localaccess.com Cost: \$50.

May 14 & 15 Come to the premier of Skagit BCHW's Basic Skills Class @ Les Hilde. Join us in a fun new environment to learn about LNT or expand your knowledge, to make your equine recreation easier on you and the land. Great food and comraderie in a camping environment.

The Skagit Chapter of BCHW is sponsoring a Leave No Trace Education Weekend for interested individuals. This event will start early Saturday May 14 and run until Sunday afternoon/evening at the Les Hilde Trailhead in the Harry Osborne Forest in Hamilton Washington. Camping will be available at the trailhead at no cost. Meals will be provided – the cost is yet to be determined. Contact: Alisa Boswell (360) 201-8672 skagitbchw@gmail.com

The Leave No Trace Education Program teaches individuals and groups how to use public lands with minimal impact to the environment. BCHW's Leave No Trace Education Chair Jane Byram will be our guide through this nationally awarded program. Last year the BCHW received the Environment and Wildlife Compatibility Award in WA DC in "recognition of outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds and to promote programs that enhance the quality and quantity of trail experiences available to the public." –Trailhead News July/Aug 2010 pg. 4.



CALENDAR



February 28th Monday

Board meeting at Bob's Burger & Brew, 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 meeting.

March 1, 2011 Tuesday

County Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Acme Elementary School, 5200 Turkington Road, Acme. Will be discussing the South Fork Park. please try to attend and show your support.

March 9, 2011 Wednesday

General Meeting at Laurel Grange, 7:00 meeting. Guest speaker: FFA. Treats and beverages: Rick Olson, Sage Hollins and Tara Wigg. If one of you can bring some beverages, you may want to check with each.

March 12, 2011 Saturday

Heady trail fun party, potluck and soup. Please bring loppers, gloves and anything else to help clean trails. Also please bring a potluck dish to share. More information at the March general meeting.

March 18-20, 2011 Fri-Sun

State Rendezvous and Auction in Ellensburg, WA. More information on the State newsletter.

April 9, 2011 Saturday

Fun party at Virgil Stremmer. Getting the place ready for the Confidence ride on April 23rd.

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

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



Coming Events.

March 12, 2011: Fun party at Heady trails. Please let Roger know if you plan to attend so we have an idea how many people will be attending. This will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share.

Trail work: If you know of some trails that need work, please notify Roger Nelson so a work party can be setup.

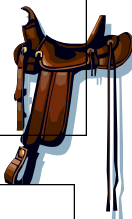
Volunteer hours: If you do some work on a trail, please complete the volunteer form and notify Verna McCloud at the email address of verna@nas.com. She needs hours worked, if used any equipment, number of stock, number of people, round trip mileage, how long much time for travel.

Easter Egg ride: If you would like to help with the Easter egg ride, please notify one of the trail bosses: Cindy Piccolo, Roger Nelson or Tara Wigg. Toni Blakely will be getting the eggs ready so she will probably need help.

Confidence builder ride: This is scheduled for April 23, 2011. We need to get a committee setup, so if you are willing to help out, please notify Rocky Leavitt.

Auction: Bill McKenna will be in charge of the auction committee. If you wish to be in the committee and help out, please let him know. First thing is to setup a date for the auction.

Have any ideas or suggestion, please let me know.
Fran



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.



Sunshine Committee

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

Greg Armes and Susan Watson: Our thoughts and prayers sent to Greg and Susan. Greg's Mom Patricia passed away on Saturday February 5.

Melinda Hardin: Get well wishes sent to Melinda who is recovering from her knee surgery. Hope you get better soon and back in the saddle again.

Animals as Natural Therapy Presents
"A Million Shining Stars ~ an Evening of Hope"
benefitting Animals as Natural Therapy's programs and growth.

Join ANT for an evening honoring our shining stars,
Dinner served by Hotel Bellwether,
Live and Silent Auction excitement
and Dancing to The Atlantics!
Help us continue to support youth, adults and families by giving them opportunities for learning, empowerment and healing through a deep bond with animals.
Saturday March 5th, 5pm At Hotel Bellwether

Tickets \$75 per person
Or invite 9 of your closest friends and purchase a table \$750
Contact: animalsasnaturaltherapy@comcast.net
360-671-3509

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!

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Pick Your Battles

A little different vet notes this month. I'd like to talk about avoiding some wrecks. I am not a trainer; my dog's name is "Molly Get Down", which is an indication of my animal training abilities. But over the years as an equine practitioner and even more years as a human owned by horses, I have seen and heard about more wrecks than I care to remember. Here a few tips for keeping out of trouble.

Pick your battles. Experienced riders will all say there are times you just get through a problem on the trail and save the training for a more suitable place. Example- a jiggling horse on a mountain trail. Of course try to quiet him down but avoid aggressive training techniques such as backing, turning, until you are off the cliff and in a safe area. Even trying to stop him could trigger a bucking fit.

Herd-bound horse: Don't separate the insecure horse on the trail. Let him stay glued to his pasture-mate. Parents-remember that stage when our kids refused to be separated from mom- even 18 inches. The insecure horse is pretty much the same. Forcing separation on the trail can lead to a panic attack. There are techniques for overcoming this problem but try them at home.

Forget the idea that you can't let a horse get away with an undesirable behavior. Horses can be re-trained. We've all heard the statement "Don't let her get away with that, she will do that forever if you do" Forget that statement, it isn't true.

Of course we must train on the trail. But if you are in a dangerous area, upsetting other horses or riders, or if your training technique just isn't working, ride through it and re-train in a safer area. Try to de-fuse the situation if possible. Two good techniques- laughter and a hand treat.

Trail riding is different than arena riding. Medics are further away and the ground is harder. You have to get home. In the arena you can pull the saddle off and put the horse away. On the trail you may have 10 miles to go.

One of the best bits of horse handling advice I have ever heard is Kenny Rogers song The Gambler. It isn't about horses; it's about poker and a hand of cards, but sure fits the horse world.

" Know when to hold'em, know when to fold'em. Know when to walk away, and know when to run"

Rendezvous Commemorative Tee Shirt

Can't make it to Rendezvous but want to show your support? Purchase a commemorative tee shirt! See the attached photo for the mock up.

This is great for advertising your organization on the trail, whether riding or working. They are being made by longtime BCHW members and supporters, Glenco Supply Company; BCHW will get a portion of the proceeds. The tees are in pre-shrunk men's sizes and are only \$15 each S-XL, \$17 XXL plus. Shipping is free if your Director picks them up at Rendezvous and delivers them to you. Or I can mail them directly to you for \$5.20 S&H each.

These will be special orders so please let me know if you want one ASAP. Checks to 'BCHW' and sent to me at PO Box 194, Satsop, WA 98583.

Thanks for you support!

Lori Lennox, BCHW Store Manager

PS: Glenco Supply for all your embroidery or printing needs: 253-852-1141

Revised Whatcom BCH General Meeting, Ride and Work Parties Schedule for 2011

(Mark Your Calendars! New Information in Red)

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <u>March 9, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Laurel Grange, 7:00 meeting</u> |
| <u>March 12, 2011</u> | <u>Heady fun party, potluck and soup</u> |
| <u>March 18-20, 2011</u> | <u>State Rendezvous and Auction in Ellensburg, WA</u> |
| <u>April 9, 2011</u> | <u>fun party at Virgil Stremler</u> |
| <u>April 13, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Laurel Grange, 7:00 meeting</u> |
| <u>April 16, 2011</u> | <u>Easter Egg ride at Heady trails</u> |
| <u>April 23, 2011</u> | <u>Confidence Builder Ride at Virgil Stremler's place</u> |
| <u>May 11, 2011</u> | <u>General meeting at Laurel Grange, 7:00 meeting</u> |
| <u>May 15, 2011</u> | <u>Stewart Work Party and food drive</u> |
| <u>June 11, 2011</u> | <u>NW Regional fun party at Les Hilde.</u> |
| <u>June 8, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Herman Miller 4H Park, 1385 E. Hemmi Rd. Everson</u> |
| <u>July 9, 2011</u> | <u>NW Regional Ride at Les Hilde</u> |
| <u>July 13, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Herman Miller 4H Park</u> |
| <u>July</u> | <u>To Be Announced work party</u> |
| <u>July 30, 2011</u> | <u>Ferndale Old Settler's Parade</u> |
| <u>August 10, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Herman Miller 4H Park</u> |
| <u>August 13, 2011</u> | <u>John and Sage Hollins will be hosting a ride in Acme from their place</u> |
| <u>August</u> | <u>To Be Announced—maybe a club campout</u> |
| <u>Sept 3, 2011</u> | <u>fun party for the Birdsvew ride at Les Hilde</u> |
| <u>Sept 10 or 11th</u> | <u>Birdsvew Ride to Brewery</u> |
| <u>Sept 14, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Herman Miller 4H Park</u> |
| <u>October 12, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Laurel Grange. 7:00</u> |
| <u>Oct 23, 2011</u> | <u>Halloween Ride at Heady trails</u> |
| <u>Nov 9, 2011</u> | <u>General Meeting at Laurel Grange</u> |

More rides/fun parties will be added as needed. **AUCTION DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

General meetings start at 7:00 p.m. The meeting at Herman Miller 4H Park are potlucks.

Any questions regarding rides, fun rides, please contact Cindy Piccolo, Roger Nelson or Tara Wigg.

If you would like to sponsor a ride please notify the trail bosses.

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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:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Single | \$36.00 |
| Family | \$49.00 |

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.

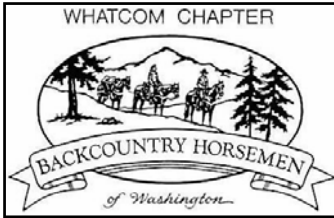
Signature: _____ Date: _____

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



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.



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:
General Meeting: March 9, 2011
Laurel Community Grange,
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA
Meeting at 7:00
Treats: Rick, Sage & Tara

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

