



# TRAIL TALES

November 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.

Hello Everyone,

Fall is officially here: The colors are outstanding and the rains have begun. But, a few hearty souls ventured out last weekend for our first ever Halloween/Haunted Trail Ride. We had 16 riders and a few none riders show up for the fun. The trail was well marked and rides could participate in a scavenger hunt of creepy crawly scary items that were hidden out on the trail. There was even a Haunted Tree that was handing out "Trick or Treats".

The ride was followed by a delicious stew lunch made by Pam Ritter and enjoyed around a warming campfire. There were many great costumes, but we could only pick the top two. The winners were Shirley Toddhunter as "The Broom" with her horse dressed up as the witch and Cruella Devil (Lynn Johnson). I would like to thank Lisa Oostema, Melinda Hardin, Ken & Pam Ritter, Leroy & Debbie Lagerwey for all of their assistance. It was a great day due to their efforts and everyone seemed to have a hauntingly good time. I know I did and we hope to get some pictures up on our web site soon.

At our last meeting a 2010 Auction Committee was formed. I know that they will come up with an exciting money making event for 2010. Thank you all for volunteering, we need more members like you folks.

I would also like to thank those of you that are stepping forward to volunteer for 2010 Officer and Committee positions. It is good to see some of our new members getting involved. Elections will be held at our November 11th meeting. It has been a great experience for me the last two years serving as your President and as I get ready to pass on the torch I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

Thank you!  
Susan

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2009

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**Vet Notes Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M Rain Scald**

Indian summer is coming to a close, horses are coating up for winter, the rain has returned, and now is the time to start preventative methods to prevent rain scald.

Rain scald is an infection of the skin caused by *Dermatophilus congolensis*. This critter is an actinomycete, which behaves like both a bacteria and fungus. Rain scald needs at least 3 factors to infect a horse: a carrier horse, some method of transmission like a brush or saddle pad, and excessive moisture. The lesions show up as large round circular sores or as small, raised areas with small scabs. The most common lesions have a paint brush or tuft of hair appearance. As the tuft comes off a scab comes with it, leaving a raw area underneath.

Rain scald needs moisture and a matted down hair coat to survive. Here are some tips to prevent it.

The most common areas affected are the top of the back, withers, and rump. When the coat is wet from rain it will naturally tuft. Try to brush this area as often as possible. Thick-coated horses are most susceptible. It may take a metal curry or even a dog brush to de-tuft and smooth the coat. You want to get air down to the skin and fluff the hair up.

Blankets are not the answer. Although they repel the rain the warm moist environment under them is an ideal environment for rain scald. They may prevent the hair from lofting, trapping moisture next to the skin.

Most of us use one brush on all of our horses. This not ideal, but definitely shouldn't be done if any one horse shows up with the condition.

Keep a good level of nutrition. Most starved horses in our area will develop rain scald, although the reverse is also true- rain scald can lead to weight loss..

Provide shelter. Granted, some horses prefer to be out but often this is due to a barn being built to the owner's specification, not the horses. Get advice from your veterinarian and your horse before building a barn.

Watch for early signs. Elevated tufts of hair are a sign. Feel with your fingers, early rain scald feels much like a tiny clumps of dirt. If it comes right off it is dirt, if it is stuck to the skin or comes off with a tuft of hair its rain scald.

Contact your veterinarian if you suspect it. Treatment will vary slightly depending on the condition. Hair loss can be extensive, a real problem when the northeaster hits. Prevention is the key.

**2009  
TRAIL BOSSES**

Adopt a ride for 2009

**WORK PARTY  
COORDINATOR**

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

**Membership**

**Well it's that time of  
the year to start  
thinking about next  
year.**

**Please complete your  
membership form  
and return to Lynn.  
We would really  
appreciate receiving  
the membership  
forms early so that  
she has time to teach  
the new treasurer do  
the paperwork**

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

## BCH minutes

## General meeting minutes – Laurel Grange Oct 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Sebastian at 7:04 After the Pledge of Allegiance the agenda was adopted and the September minutes approved with one correction- Mike McGlenn attended the Acme trailhead meeting and is going over trailhead changes with the trailhead committee.

Hospitality: We were suppose to have one visitor, it was rumored that he/she was wandering around the county searching for us.

Announcements:

**Treasurer:** Lynn Johnson reported on bank balances. We have \$55.77 due from Country Supply. We have 133 members. Calendars are \$10 each. Trail work signs to put on vehicles are available.

**Director:** Rick Olsen- Rick will report the next meeting.

**DNR public meeting:** Four members, Susan Sebastian, Mike Bjornstad , Rick Olsen, and Shirley Todhunter attended from our chapter. The motorcycle group is suing the state to have Nova funds moved back to trail funding. Nova funds have been moved into the general funds. We cannot donate due to our non-profit status but individuals can donate. Susan Sebastian commented on how it was great to see different user groups working together with a common ground. We have a lot more power and contacts working together

**Finance:** Sam Miller- no requests

**Legislative/trailhead:** no report

**LNT:** no report

**Volunteer hrs/ newsletter:** Fran Van Diest reported that we have 1728.5 basic skills hours, 10908 mileage 77 equipment, and 231 stock. This translates to \$60,187 value. Verna Walker and Roger Nelson have both volunteer to do the volunteer hours. They can discuss it and decide who will do the hours.

Fran reported that Saxon is open. However parking is going to be a problem due to re-routing of the road

**Sunshine:** no report

**Trail Boss:** Work Party Coordinator: no report

**Old Business:**

Nominations for officers: Shirley Todhunter was nominated by Lynn Johnson, nomination was accepted. Verna Walker has volunteered for volunteer hours. Roger Nelson also volunteered for a position.

Halloween Ride and costume Parade: Oct 24 at Heady Road- Bryce Creek Horse Camp. Drag riders are needed. Chick Long reported that the Ribbon Trail (if you turn right after entering the yellow gate ) has a very low tree across it.

**Auction 2010:** Susan Sebastian stated that if we don't have a fund-raiser we may have to increase dues. The money in our treasury is mostly for trail projects, 30% goes to the chapter. The possibility of changing the date to later in the spring and combining the auction with another event like a ride was mentioned. Sharon Hoofnagle, Chick Long, Roy Van Diest, Gary Anderson, and Sam Miller volunteered to work on the auction committee. We need to check the state calendar for available dates. Our expenditures are around \$1,000 per year, state dues and the newsletter are major expenses. We can change the allocation of funds for future auctions.

Christmas party: Chick Long-Chick has lined up a barn for the event. It is on the Smith Rd .6 mile from the Sand Rd. there is a microwave but no stove. We would need to rent torpedo heaters. The owner provides the barn for events, rent would be a donation to charity.

*(Continue on Page 4)*

(Continue from Page 3)

**General Meeting Minutes**

Herman Miller: The T-posts have been capped.

Bryce Creek (Heady Rd) hog fuel has been spread in the pens.

50-50: Susan Sebastian won, she donated her portion back to the club, the total was \$33.

**New business:** Rocky Leavitt- there is a huge pile of gravel at Herman Miller; he is planning a work party for the 2nd week-end in November.

Rocky led rides into the high country nearly every week this summer and fall. He encouraged people to ride the high trails.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12

Sharon Hoofnagle showed a powerpoint presentation on winter horse care for those that were interested after the meeting.

Submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle – secretary

**Auction Committee**

The following people volunteered to be in the auction committee: Sam Miller, Gary Anderson, Roy Van Diest, Chick Long, Sharon Hoofnagle, Mike Bjornstad and Marillyn Tefft.

They are in the process of getting together to make decisions on the auction.

If anyone else would like to be in the committee, please contact Mike Bjornstad at 360-398-2646.



**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

lljohnson06@comcast.net

**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!**

# CALENDAR



**Nov 2            Monday**

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

**Nov 11           Wednesday**

**General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange**, 6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden.  
Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.  
Treats: Sam Miller and Lisa Oostema  
Elections for 2010 officers will be held so please come!

**Christmas Party**  
The committee is planning the Christmas party, more information will be available at the next meeting.  
If you wish to help, please contact Lisa Oostema at 360-319-7390.

**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**

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.



**Check out our Website:**  
[www.Whatcom-bch.com](http://www.Whatcom-bch.com)

(Email received on October 27, 2009 from Louise Caywood)

## **Equine Industry Survey Launched by American Horse Publications**

**October 23, 2009 -- The American Horse Publications (AHP) is conducting an equine industry survey to gauge participation trends in the U.S. equine industry. In addition, the survey seeks to gather information regarding the most important issues facing the industry.**

Dr. C. Jill Stowe is providing consulting services for data collection and analysis to the AHP. Dr. Stowe is an assistant professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky.

The survey is sponsored by Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health and Pfizer Animal Health.

Those eligible to participate in the survey are men and women, 18 years of age and older, who currently own, manage, or lease at least one horse and live in the United States.

This study is anonymous; this means that no one, not even members of the research team, will be able to associate information you give with responses. When the survey results are tallied, only aggregated results will be presented.

“The AHP’s member publications, websites and newsletters reach nearly three million people involved in the horse industry in the United States and around the world,” said Kimberly S. Brown, current AHP president. It was Brown who proposed the survey, which was backed unanimously by the AHP board.

“We have been through a rough year, and there are many stories out there of unwanted horses and the decline of the horse industry,” noted Brown. “But I think the real story is the wanted horses and their owners who are still strong despite the economic downturn.

“We think this is a great opportunity for us to use our collective resources and reach into the horse industry to get answers about how we are doing today, how we think we’ll be doing in the near future, and what we are concerned about in our industry.

“Let’s get 100,000 or more horse owners to participate in this survey,” said Brown. “We have a wonderful chance to come together to gather information that can benefit us all, so spread the word!”

“I especially want to thank Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health and Pfizer Animal Health for sponsoring this survey,” said Brown. “Both of these companies--and the people behind the companies--are supporters of the horse industry because of their love of the horse, not just because it’s their business. And I want to thank Dr. Stowe for being willing to contribute her time and expertise to ensure we have a legitimate survey with accurate statistical analysis.”

**To take the survey,**

**[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bIUU08nvuI\\_2fLQ1Q0\\_2fdEyOQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=bIUU08nvuI_2fLQ1Q0_2fdEyOQ_3d_3d)**

**The survey closes January 15, 2010.**

Feel free to pass this link around to every horse-owning group and individual.

### **Halloween Ride**

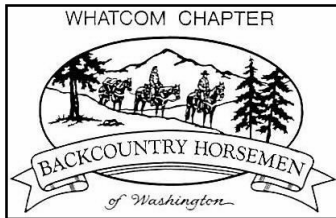
I want to thank Susan Sebastian and Lisa Oostema for all their hard work on making the Halloween ride a success! The trails were well marked and they even hid scary items through out the trail. Thanks for Melinda Hardin for helping out and being a tree that day. Also special thanks to Ken and Pam Ritter and Leroy and Debbie Lagerwey for all your help with lunch--it was delicious!

Thank you to all the riders that came and dressed up, it was hilarious!

This was a fun ride, hopefully they will do it again next year.

Fran





Fran Van Diest  
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*Next*  
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen  
*Meeting:*  
**General Meeting: November 11, 2009**  
**Laurel Community Grange**  
**6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden**  
**Meeting at 7:00**  
Treats: Lisa Oostema & Sam Miller

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

