



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

November 2017

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2017

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Rodney Vandersypen
360-961-3259
rodneyv@copper.net

Vice President:

Joe Remenar
360-818-4481
j.remenar@gmail.com

Director:

Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

Alternate Director:

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Secretary:

Lynn Johnson
360-384-5107

Treasurer:

Jackie Yereance
360-318-5509

Membership:

Helen Almojera
360-592-8080

**Newsletter Editor &
Publicity**

Fran Van Diest
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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.

What a great time it was. The Autumn Ride was a great success I think in everyone's eyes. The weather was great and the food was even better. I would like to thank Helen and the committee for doing the planning and putting this great ride together in such a short time and it ran so smooth. The fish were fabulous and many thanks to Herman and Jake for supplying and cooking them. All the people that I talked to about the ride think it should be a yearly event.

It is that time of the year for us to elect new officers to run the chapter for next year. Please step up and help keep the chapter doing all the good work we do to keep our trails open for stock.

The Christmas Party is planned for December 15. This will be a little different than we have had in the past, we will be having a joint party with the Skagit Chapter. This will be a good chance for the members of both chapters to get to know each other a little better. Please see the flier for more information on location and time.

Happy Trails

Rodney

**Check out our new and improved
Website:**

<http://www.whatcom-bch.com/>

Autumn Ride

Our Autumn Ride, October 14, Bryce Creek Horse Camp, replaced our usual Halloween Ride this year, and was our club's first ever riding fundraiser. We thought about calling it the Fall Ride, but quickly reconsidered that name for obvious reasons! The 2-1/2 to 3-hour ride on Vedder trails was well flagged by Roger and no one complained about getting lost or confused. I'm sure the permanent signs helped as well if riders wanted a shorter route. Nobody wants to wake up to rain before a ride, and we were blessed with a dry day.

A total of 43 riders enjoyed the event including 19 nonmembers. All 55 folks ate lunch enjoying either the King salmon, expertly grilled by Herman and Jake, or the hot dog choice, roasted over the campfire by Roger. There was no shortage of tempting desserts and the shelter looked inviting.

When Rocky reminded us about the 14th being opening day of deer season, it was too late to change our plans, but loaning out the club's orange work party vests was a great solution, and most riders took one. There were occasional far off shots, but I guess we chased the deer away from the trails.

This event surpassed expectations in every way, it was festive and fun, but it wouldn't have worked nearly so well without those who did the planning and the many who showed up to help--you know who you are and thank you.

Helen

**2017
TRAIL BOSSES**

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar
360-818-4481

Cindy Piccolo
360-966-4082

**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

Membership for 2018

It's that time of the year to renew your membership for 2018. Please don't delay! The membership person needs time to process all the memberships and to submit to BCHW. Membership form enclosed please complete and return to Whatcom BCH, c/o of Helen Almojera at PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228

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. Email to: fvandiest@msn.com.

**Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
October 11, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Joe Remenar and seconded by Bill McKenna to approve the September 2017 minutes as published. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker: Sharon Hoofnagle introduced Katie Pencke from the Whatcom County Conservation District to give a presentation on their programs and services. Katie has almost a decade of service in various environmental topics, agricultural business to livestock planner. She now functions as liaison for collaborative practices between WCCD and landowners. These practices begin with the discussion of what the landowner wants to do with their property to how WCCD can help to achieve it. Her presentation was informative and thorough, and well received. WCCD offers free presentations the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next presentation will cover Management Practices. Check out their website.

Treasurer's Report: Jacquie gave the treasurer's report and presented the 3/4 year budget information. She also said we received a donation of \$200.00 from Camp Horizon for our volunteering horse rides this past summer.

Director/Legislative: Bill McKenna stated the Excelsior ride brought in \$500.00 to the state and \$50.00 to Whatcom Chapter. The Oct. 16 US Forestry meeting in Sedro Woolley will work on creating a plan for future trail work and he would like to see some grant money for the same. He will be attending the Wine Ride on Oct. 28, and hopes to learn more about the state's best practices for increasing membership.

Work Party/Trail Coordinator/Bosses: Roger Nelson reminded folks about the Salmon Feast Ride at Heady Rd. this Saturday, Oct. 14. There is currently no work parties scheduled.

Trails: S. Fork Park: Mike McGlenn talked about the "soft opening" at South Fork and passed out copies of *The Steward*, the Nessel Farm newsletter. He noted the special insert section on the Nessel Farm History authored by Rand, stating if you read nothing else this article is worth the read. He then went on to talk about the Whatcom County Planning people now having three alternatives for the Baker to Bellingham Recreation Area. On December 12th they will meet at the Deming Library to narrow it down to two for presentation to the public on December 13th at the Fairhaven Cruise Terminal. Put this in your calendar to attend this important meeting. Time for this will be posted later.

Helen Almojera clarified the issues with Hutchison Creek and native tribes. Restrictions are due to ceremonial bathing by several tribes. Though these are primarily autumn and winter practices the DNR has determined the area will be circumvented.

Unfinished Business: **Elections:** Elections are coming up and a new president, secretary, and work party coordinator are needed. If you are willing to step up to the task Roger Nelson will take on finding candidates for the November election.

Christmas Party: We are still hoping to combine our Christmas party with the Skagit community. The date may be Friday, December 15th. The location is possibly the Alger Grange. Verna McLeod and Susan Sebastian will interface with the Skagit Chapter for planning.

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**Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
October 11, 2017**

Rocky noted that the high country rides are breathtaking this time of year and we should get out and up NOW to enjoy that part of our trail systems.

Volunteer Hours: Volunteer hours reported this past month were 135.

Motion made by Joe Remenar and seconded by Roger Nelson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Geri Surratt
For Lynn Johnson

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.



Sunshine Committee

If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact Shirley Todhunter at 360-966-5206 or send her an email at hermater09@gmail.com

Therese Jones: get better soon cards sent.

Chick Long: hope for a fast recovery card sent to Chick as he recovers from surgery.

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.*



CALENDAR



Oct 30th Monday

**Board meeting at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr.
Dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:00pm.** First room

Nov 8th—Wednesday

**General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange,
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden. Meeting at 7:00pm.**
Treats—Sheri and Bill will bring some beverages.

Dec 15th—Friday

Christmas Party with Skagit Chapter. Plans and arrangements being made to combine our Christmas party with Skagit Chapter. The date has been picked and location will be at the Alger Community Hall. Still in the planning stage so more information later date.

2017 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

LEGISLATIVE:

Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

LEAVE NO TRACE:

Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

Verna McLeod
360-595-2744

PROGRAMS:

Sharon Hoofnagle
360-7344258

SUNSHINE

Shirley Todhunter
360-966-5206

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-739-2619

SCRAPBOOK

Debbie Lagerwey
354-2804
Need Pictures!



FOR SALE:

Well broke in Western Saddle.
Needs a little TLC; hasn't been used in years. \$200.
Ronald Mazza, 360.671.4408, ramazza@juno.com



Volunteer Hours:

Remember to report your hours each month, any meetings that are open to the public, if you go riding and stop and do some work, report hours.

You can send an email to Verna at verna@soundengineering.com with information.

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Think Like a Horse

Horses often perceive things differently than humans. For example a mud puddle may look like a black hole to a horse. In fact it can look that way to a human- we learn by experience that it is a puddle. But there is no way for us to tell how deep it is. Experience tells us that mud puddles are usually just inches deep. The young horse will not know this and may refuse to step in it.

One day I was called out to suture up a laceration on a horse. We had had a horrendous wind storm. The horse was in a two acre field. The wind had picked up his 12 x 15 ft. shelter had rolled it clear across the pasture. Some part had grazed the horse and cut his side.

I sedated the horse but he was still uneasy. He kept eyeing the shelter that was now in the far corner of the field. While I was suturing I commented to the owner that it was too bad that there was no way to let him know that it was not going to roll back. A few minutes went by, and then the owner and I suddenly looked at each other and almost simultaneously said "if the wind shifts it will come back"

Another perception issue: I was riding up a logging road when around a turn came 4 trail runners- human type, with ear buds in. As they came down the hill I could feel my horse Reif, tense up. As they came closer he stopped and raised his head. At that point I signaled to the runners to slow down. They ignored me. There was a cut-off about 10 ft. in front of me. I knew what was happening. Reif was well aware that there was not enough room for all of us on the road. Someone had to give way. The runners knew they were taking the cut-off, I knew they most likely were taking it, but Reif did not know.

In these examples the horses may have well known that most likely they were not in danger. But perhaps they were prepared for the unlikely. The puddle could be a sink hole, the wind could shift and bring the shelter back across the field, and the runners may have tried to run past us. Sometimes we need to think like our horses.

Save the Date!

**Christmas Party
Friday, December 15, 2017
Alger Community Hall
18735 Parkview Dr. Alger, WA**



This year Whatcom and Skagit BCH are planning a joint Christmas Party on Friday, December 15th.

Come join us!

The committee is currently planning the details, more information in the December newsletter.

Dues are from January 1st thru December 31st.

NOVEMBER 2013 APPLICATION

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 Helen Almojera,
PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228. Make check out to: Whatcom BCH.

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:	

Check to opt out of mailed (hardcopy) newsletter: BCHW (Trailhead News) Chapter

STATE MEMBERSHIP			CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP		
Basic Membership			All chapter members must also be a member of BCHW. However, BCHW dues only need to be paid once each year. Joining additional (secondary) chapters only requires paying chapter dues.		
	Single	\$41.00			
	Family	\$54.00			
Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)			Chapter Name (or Independent): WHATCOM COUNTY If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW dues have been paid for 2018:		
	Contributing	\$75.00			
	Sustaining	\$125.00			
	Patron	\$250.00			
	Benefactor	\$500.00			
	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00			
State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)			Chapter Dues	\$10.00	
Additional State Donation			Additional Chapter Donation	\$	
State Subtotal			Chapter Subtotal	\$	
			Grand Total (State+Chapter)		
			\$		

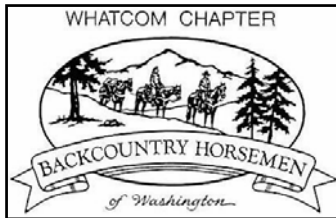
LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

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
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 734-2567



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Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:

General Meeting: Nov 8, 2017
Laurel Community Grange
Guide Meridian, Lynden
Meeting at 7:00

Treats/beverages: Sheri Hathaway and Bill McKenna

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

