



# TRAIL TALES

October 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.

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2011

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### **OCTOBER 2011**

Beautiful days and cold nights are here. Normally this is our last month to get back up into our local backcountry. A few of us had a nice trip up to Hannegan Pass. It was great. Made you feel good just to be alive. It was one of those days where it was rainy when we started out and it cleared up by ten. We rode up over the Pass and down to the Park. I didn't go into the Park because I had a gun which are not allowed in. Which brings me to my main conversation for this note. North Cascade National Park. For most of us wilderness riders, the idea of riding and camping in the Park makes us cringe. The rules are stifling. A friend of a friend of mine got fined for allowing his horse to eat grass. Also, for most of the last forty years the Park has not maintained the trails to an acceptable level. In addition to this they have kicked us off some of the trails and made them hiker only. Every thing they do seems to make the old horse trails less hospitable to horses. To their credit, the PNT has done vast improvements to the trails in our area. I don't know about other areas.

To this end, we have a meeting set up by Darryl Weidkamp in which we will meet as a user group of horse people with the local heads of the Park Department. I don't know what can become of such a meeting but Darryl is hopeful. I realize that for various reasons most of you cannot ride into the Park from our direction. However, if the trails were brought up to stock standards, most of you could. The country over the Hannegan towards Ross Lake is deep timber country. There are some fir trees so big you can't believe it. This is the trail where in the old days, the locals used it to ride to Eastern Washington. In a way you can still do it if you can ride across Ross dam. More horse traffic is possible if we had wider trails, and better horse camps. Similar to the Pasayten. As it is, we feel we are barely welcome there.

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### President's Notes

Hopefully this meeting will begin the dialogue necessary to get things going in the right direction. I think it is right up our mission of trying to keep the trails open for stock. In the past I have gotten discouraged when dealing with government types. I just stopped going to certain areas with certain trails. Perhaps it's time we fought the good fight for our right to ride all the trails in the Park. Do we have it in us to carry this out? It might last for years. Time will tell. When only certain user groups can see and use our backcountry, we have lost a great part of our Nation's heritage.

Rocky

**" What lies before us and behind us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us".**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

### 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

### HALLOWEEN RIDE

Dress up your horse and/or yourself and Join the  
Whatcom Chapter - BCH of WA

For a Halloween Fun Ride and Parade of Costumes  
\$3.00 per rider requested to cover costs.

Ride out from 10 to 11 AM Sunday October 23, 2011

© Bryce Creek Horse Camp ~ Heady Road, Sumas



Ride down the haunted trail and show off your costume. A hot lunch will be served for a small donation and at 1:30 the costumes will be judged with small prizes awarded.



We hope you can join us and have a howling good time.

For more information call

Lisa - 319-7390 or Susan - 391-2965



### 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: [wbnnewseditors@msn.com](mailto:wbnnewseditors@msn.com) or [fvandiest@msn.com](mailto:fvandiest@msn.com).

## Whatcom BCH General Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. with program. Several members participated in an informal program regarding safely, doing ground work with your horse, products they have used that work. Tara Wigg brought her two horses and discussed safety, having horse stand still as you mount, side step, safety while riding. Rick Olson discussed using hobbles on his horse during one of the rides to prevent from digging holes. Alice Ann Yancey discussed her version of making a loop made from an old fly mask that can be used on the horse since it has Velcro, it will release quickly in case it gets caught on something. Ann Leonard mentioned she uses AluShield on her horse that is sensitive to no-see-ums. Ron Snyder mentioned the importance of rotating compost. Jackie Braveman mentioned the Aussie tie ring to tie your horse. Several other members mentioned their helpful hints/ideas.

Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Adoption of agenda, minutes: Motion made by Gary Anderson and seconded by Bill McKenna to approve minutes as written.

Hospitality: Alice Ann Yancey reported on there were 35 members and 5 guest at our last meeting. Also introduced guests Tom and Laurie Swartwood. Other guests present were Debbie Lagerwey's granddaughters-Kelsey and Riley, Dee Pullar and Dave Lunstroth.

### Report of Officers:

**Treasurer:** Shirley Todhunter reports she has calendars for sale. There are 15 raffle calendars--\$20.00 each, \$10. for regular calendars. Monthly drawings of \$300 each month prize plus grand prize drawing in December for \$3000.

**Director's Report:** Rick Olson reports that a few members volunteered to help with registration at next year's Rendezvous, could use more. He will be attending the Director's meeting on September 24th and can get more raffle calendars if needed.

### Committee Reports:

**Legislative:** Rick Olson---RTP (Recreation Trail Program). Emails were sent to the members to contact representatives supporting RTP letter to continue funding for Recreation trail program. No letter was copied for general meeting since deadline past.

**LNT:** Mick Blakely not present

**Newsletter:** Fran Van Diest, turn articles by 20th of month and if anyone has pictures, let me know.

**Sunshine:** Lori Hunt--not present. Rocky Leavitt mentioned to notify Lori if know of anyone that needs card sent.

**Trailhead:** Mike McGlenn/Sam Miller not present: Rocky Leavitt reports sent Mike sent letter showing our support of the original park and not Hatchings creek. No other news at this time.

**Trail Boss:** Roger Nelson reports there were about 50-60 folks at the Brewery ride on Sept 10th. There was some discussion of possibility changing it next year back to the restaurant instead of the Brewery. More discussion at a later date.

Rocky Leavitt reported on the ride from Sage Hollins' place. They did a lot of work for this ride.

**Volunteer Hours:** Rocky Leavitt reported on the total hours reported for August--96 hours, also mentioned the names of members that reported their hours.

**Work Party Coordinator:** Roger Nelson--more info under unfinished business

**President's Pilot Program:** Bill McKenna: They have a maybe on another pilot, still working on details.

### Unfinished Business:

**Stewart work party:** Roger Nelson reports no date has been set yet, will review and setup date.

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### Whatcom BCH General Meeting Minutes for Sept 14, 2011

**Camp out at Heady Sept 30--Oct 2---**Roger Nelson reports first come for corrals. There are also 6 high lines for horses. Rocky reports purpose of getting together, to ride, eat and get to know other members. Would like to have someone volunteer to provide breakfast and dinner for Saturday, Oct. 1st (main course) for the Club and also breakfast for Sunday, Oct 2nd and the rest will provide potluck.

There are several trails at Heady, flat, uphill, have choices, can ride for 2-3 hours.

Gary Anderson volunteered to bring firewood. Rocky mentioned if anyone also has firewood that they can bring, we would appreciate it. Debbie Lagerwey and Gary each volunteered to do one breakfast.

The club will provide main dish.

**Mileage reimbursement committee:** Bill McKenna reported the committee has met and plan to meet this Thursday to review guidelines so there are no misunderstanding regarding reimbursement for mileage for work parties. The volunteer hours have to be reported to the Volunteer hours Coordinator to request reimbursement. We will have a proposal for the next board and general meeting. Just reviewing guidelines for trail maintenance right now. Also mentioned that the volunteer mileage can be reported to IRS to see if can be used as a deduction. Rocky mentioned if anyone has any ideas/concerns, talk to one of the committee members: Bill McKenna, Susan Sebastian, Lynn Johnson or Fran Van Diest. Verna McLeod mentioned not to wait until the last minute (April 14th) to ask for total mileage for year for IRS, she needs time to gather information.

**Les Hilde work party Sept 24th:** Rocky Leavitt reports Susan Sebastian is working with DNR on this work party. Please notify Roger Nelson if you plan to attend. Work party at Les Hilde. If you haven't been to a work party, you are missing a lot, it's a lot of fun working with your fellow members.

**Herman Miller 4H Park work party:** Rocky mentioned plan work party in November. Possibly November 19th. Mitzie Carr will bring it up to the 4H meeting, date scheduled for November 19th.

50/50 draw: no drawing.

#### New Business:

**Proposed Heady parking lot:** Rocky Leavitt reports Virgil Stremmer working on this with property owner: John, possibly work on it this winter. Whatcom BCH will take part in this project. More information later.

Rocky Leavitt reports he received a very nice thank you card from the Church camp at Heady regarding the help BCH provided on the memorial. Card will be put in the scrapbook.

**Christmas Party Dec 10th same place as last year:** Discussion regarding heat, parking area and not sufficient outside light. Also discussion about having it someplace else. Possibility for next year, need someone that is willing to take time to make phone calls, gather information regarding cost and making reservation. Will try to work on improving heat, parking issue for this year. Linda Lunstroth will be in that committee.

**Committee for 2012 nominations:** Rocky Leavitt asked for volunteers. No one volunteered. Shirley Todhunter wants to step down from being treasurer. If no volunteers for offices may disband club.

**Equipment trailer:** Rocky Leavitt reports of the need for a trailer to store all equipment in one place. Asking members if interested in having a trailer. There was some concern of having the trailer at some trails and being vandalized, security not great at trailheads. The trailer could be hauled to the Confidence ride and other events promoting BCH. The Club was interested in getting trailer. Will gather more information.

Rick Olson mention at the Rendezvous other Chapters have great displays and ours is falling apart, he wondered if someone would be interested in building one.

**Frame/tent:** Rocky Leavitt wanted to know if there was interest in frame for a tent, could use canvas for tent. This could be used at work parties, possibility have stove. Not sure of size at this time. It was mentioned to check out the ones from Costco.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Fran Van Diest



# CALENDAR



Sept 30—Oct 2 Fri—Sun

**Camp out at Heady trails.**

Potluck breakfast for Saturday & Sunday, so bring your dish to share. For Saturday, dinner at 5:00, we will have hot dogs/hamburgers, the rest will be potluck.

Come and join us, even if you don't camp out. **Need to let Roger know how many will be there for camping and also for dinner so we have an idea how much to get.**

Oct 1 Saturday

**Work party at Heady trails.** Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Many people use the trails at Heady, so come and help out and keep them clean for everybody.

Oct 3 Monday

**Board Meeting at Bob's Burger & Brew.**

Dinner at 6:00, meeting at 7:00. Hope to see all officers and committee members there.

Oct 12 Wednesday

**General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange, 6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden.**

**Meeting at 7:00 p.m.** No word of program at this time. Treats: Cindy Piccolo and Mitzie Carr signed up for treats.

Oct 23 Sunday

**Halloween Ride at Heady trails.** Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Last rider out by 11:00 a.m. There will be a \$3.00 donation fee for each rider. Lunch will be served also for a small donation. Ride down the haunted trail and show off your costume! (Costume optional).

**2011 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

**LEGISLATIVE:**

Rick Olson  
360-398-1309

**LEAVE NO TRACE:**

Mick Blakely  
360-332-7120

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Verna McLeod  
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**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

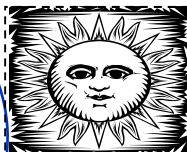


**2012 Membership**

**Time to renew your dues for 2012!**

**Please complete the attached membership form and return to our local treasurer with your check.**

**Don't Delay sign up today!**



**Sunshine Committee**

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

**Lloyd Johnson:** Our thoughts and prayers sent to Lloyd as he continues to fight his illness.

### **Les Hilde work party/ trail flagging Sept 4<sup>th</sup>**

What a fantastic day was to have a work party/flagging/ ride day at Les Hilde Trail Head. I would like to **THANK** Connie Garret, Donna Chieppo, Shirley Todhunter, Sage and John Hollins, Hamstra Family, Tara Wigg who all help mark the trail for the Birdsvie Brewery ride. I learned so much that day about “its about that we are able to ride” and “everyone is having a great time”; then is this the right trail. We followed a trail that Daryl Weidkamp had marked and with Sages’ trail marking expertise we were able to mark successfully. The trail was mostly in the trees and forest and it was like riding a Bridle Trail. If you ever get a chance to join in on a work party you will certainly come back with so many memories and stories our newsletter cannot hold them.

### **Les Hilde Birdsvie Ride Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**

Wow another weekend of great weather for a 2 hour ride of everyone enjoying their horses, friend and good food. Approx. 42 horse riders were counted and 1 stock animal. Some riders continued on to make a loop back to the Les Hilde trail head. Take an opportunity to talk to George and Ann Leonard they also had great day of riding.

I am very **GRATEFUL** for the ground crew; Tara Wigg who transported people to the brewery with their trailers who just wanted to ride one way. Shirley Todhunter and Susan Watson checking in riders, Tara and Shirley at the Brewery stopping traffic and HWY 20 so the riders can cross safely. I am very grateful for everyone who made this a successful ride; if it wasn’t for the extra time, labor and thoughtfulness of you all we would not be a successful Chapter.

### **Les Hilde Drag ride Sept 11<sup>th</sup>**

Wow nothing can be complete without a great day of working hard dragging a trail. Thank you Roger Nelson, Tara Wigg, Deb Logan who helped dragged the trail. What a opportunity to see things we never see a lot, we saw a HUGE wasps nest and a bull elk. And yes they do not make any noise in the woods. The work is hard but the friendship and getting to know one another is not. Please take the opportunity to work on a party, or call someone if they would like to join up. I like going on these rides/work party to learn more trails, see more wildlife and meet and reunite friends.

Thank you everyone again for all your support for a wonderful ride!!

Safe trail riding

~Trail Boss Cindy

### **Backcountry Horsemen of WA. 2012 Raffle Calendars**

**Put in your request for the 2012 raffle Calendar, let Shirley Todhunter know how many you want. The calendars are \$20.00 each and there are only 1500. There will be a monthly drawing for \$300 each month and a grand prize drawing in December 2012 for \$3000! This may be your lucky year!**

**This is the State fundraiser!  
So call Shirley now and order yours!  
Fran**

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

This month's Vet Notes is courtesy of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. The Association maintains a web site for horse owners; [myhorsematters.com](http://myhorsematters.com). This is an excellent site with many articles pertaining to the health of your horse. Submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.

## 10 Tips for Choosing the Best Hay for Your Horse

High-quality hay can be an important source of essential nutrients in your horse's diet. A horse's protein and energy requirements depend on age, stage of development, metabolism and workload. A mature horse will eat 2 to 2.5% of its body weight a day, and for optimum health, nutritionists recommend that at least half of this should be roughage such as hay. For a 1000-pound horse, that means at least 10 pounds of roughage each day. Hay generally falls into one of two categories – grasses or legumes. Legume hay is higher in protein, energy, calcium and vitamin A than grass hays. While hay alone may not meet the total dietary requirements of young, growing horses or those used for high levels of performance, high-quality hay may supply ample nutrition for less active adult horses.

Once you've determined the best category of hay for your horse, most people select hay based on how it looks, smells and feels. Use the following tips from the American Association of Equine Practitioners to select the best hay for your horse:

1. It's what's inside that counts. Ask that one or several bales are opened so you can evaluate the hay inside the bales. Do not worry about slight discoloration on the outside, especially in stacked hay.
2. Choose hay that is as fine-stemmed, green and leafy as possible, and is soft to the touch.
3. Avoid hay that is over cured, excessively sun-bleached, or smells moldy, musty, dusty or fermented.
4. Select hay that has been harvested when the plants are in early bloom for legume hay or before seed heads have formed in grasses. Examine the leaves, stems and flowers or seed pods to determine the level of maturity.
5. Avoid hay that contains significant amounts of weeds, dirt, trash or debris.
6. Examine hay for signs of insect infestation or disease. Be especially careful to check for blister beetles in alfalfa. Ask the grower about any potential problems in the region.
7. Reject bales that seem excessively heavy for their size or feel warm to the touch, as they could contain excess moisture that could cause mold, or worse, spontaneous combustion.
8. When possible, purchase and feed hay within a year of harvest to preserve its nutritional value.
9. Store hay in a dry, sheltered area out of the rain, snow and sun, or cover in the stack to protect it from the elements.
10. When buying in quantity, have the hay analyzed by a certified forage laboratory to determine its actual nutrient content.

Remember that horses at different ages and stages of growth, development and activity have different dietary requirements. Consult your veterinarian or a qualified equine nutritionist when formulating your horse's ration. He or she can help you put together a balanced diet that is safe, nutritious and cost-effective.

For more information about choosing hay, ask your equine veterinarian for the "Hay Quality and Horse Nutrition" brochure, provided by the AAEP in partnership with Educational Partners Bayer Animal Health and Purina Mills, Inc. More information about nutrition also can be found online at the AAEP's horse health Web site, [www.myHorseMatters.com](http://www.myHorseMatters.com).

*Reprinted with permission from the American Association of Equine Practitioners.*

## Wrangler charges griz to save boy in Flathead

By [RICH LANDERS](#) [The Spokesman-Review](#) [RavalliRepublic.com](#) | Posted: Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Courtesy photo Wrangler Erin Bolster and Tonk, a Percheron mix.



WEST GLACIER - A young woman on a big horse charged out of the pack of grizzly bear stories this summer near Glacier National Park. In a cloud of dust, the 25-year-old wrangler likely saved a boy's life while demonstrating that skill, quick-thinking and guts sometimes are the best weapons against a head-on charging bear.

On July 30, Erin Bolster of Swan Mountain Outfitters was guiding eight clients on a horse ride on the Flathead National Forest between West Glacier and Hungry Horse.

"It's the shortest ride we offer," she said recently, recalling the incident. "We'd already led two trips that morning. It's always been a very routine hourlong loop, until that day."

The group included a family of six plus a vacationing Illinois man, who'd booked the trip for his 8-year-old son's first horse-riding experience.

The young boy was riding Scout, a steady obedient mount, following directly behind Bolster, who was leading the group on Tonk, a burly 10-year-old white horse of questionable lineage.

Tonk isn't the typical trail mount. Best anyone knows, he's the result of cross-breeding a quarter horse with a Percheron - a draft horse. Bolster is 5-foot-10, yet she relies on her athleticism to climb into the saddle aboard Tonk.

"He was one of the horses we lease from Wyoming and bring in every year," Bolster said, noting that she'd picked him from the stable in May to be hers for the season.

"He's a very large horse - 18 hands high. That intimidates a lot of riders. But I've always loved big horses. He's kind of high-strung and spooky, the largest of our wrangling horses. I like a horse with a lot of spirit, and I was really glad to be on him that day."

Bolster has accumulated a wealth of experience on and around horses of national and even world class. She started riding at 4 years old, became a professional trainer at 15, graduated from high school at 16 in Roanoke, Va., and ran a riding academy for several years.

Seeking a more laid-back lifestyle, she wrangled in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic before moving to Whitefish three years ago to guide tourists during the summer around Glacier National Park and ski through the winter.

"It's the country, the mountains and the idea of seeing lot of wildlife that appealed to me, ironically enough," she said.

Bolster quickly racked up bear experience, too, although until July 30, it was always at a distance.

"At the peak of the season, we were seeing bears daily," she said. "The wranglers name them so we can let each other know where they are. Usually the bears just keep feeding in the distance or they run away when we come. Just seeing them is a treat for us and our guests."

Because they guide around Glacier Park, bear awareness is part of the preparation wranglers get when hired by Swan Mountain Outfitters.

"We go over a lot of wildlife scenarios in our training," Bolster said. "We learn to watch our horses for signals of possible trouble so we can steer clear."

That's the key, she said: Avoid trouble with a moose or a bear.

"We can't use pepper spray when we're riding because that could blind the horse," she said. "And using a gun would spook the horses and probably produce more danger than safety."

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**That's how** she went to work that day: a young but seasoned pro rider on a new, huge and spirited horse, unarmed in the wilderness with eight dudes.

"It was a pleasant ride until we came around a corner on the trail and my horse stopped firm and wouldn't move," Bolster said. "He never refuses to go, so that caught my attention quick."

But not fast enough to avoid the spike white-tailed deer that burst out of the brush and glanced off Tonk's left front shoulder.

As Tonk spun from the impact, Bolster saw a huge grizzly bear crashing through the forest right at the group in pursuit of the deer. Horses panicked and guests grabbed saddle horns for the ride of their lives.

"No amount of training could keep a horse from running from a 700-pound charging bear," she said.

Seven of the horses sensed the danger, peeled out and galloped back on the trail toward the barn.

But Scout bolted perpendicular to the trail into the timber, packing the 8-year-old boy.

"The deer peeled off and joined the horses sprinting down the trail," Bolster said. "So the bear just continued running right past me. I'm not sure the bear even knew the roles had changed, but now it was chasing a horse instead of a deer."

The grizzly was zeroed in on Scout and the boy - the isolated prey in the woods.

Adding to the drama, the boy's father, an experienced rider, could not convince his horse that it was a good plan to ride to his son's rescue.

"The last thing he saw over his shoulder as his horse ran away was the grizzly chasing his boy," Bolster said.

With the bear on Scout's heels, Tonk's instinct was to flee with the group of horses. But Tonk responded to Bolster's heels in his ribs as she spun the big fella around. They wheeled out of a 360 and bolted into the trees to wedge between the predator and the prey.

"The boy was bent over, feet out of the stirrups, clutching the saddle horn and the horse's neck," she said. "That kept him from hitting a tree limb.

"But all I could think about was the boy falling off in the path of that grizzly.

"I bent down, screamed and yelled, but the bear was growling and snarling and staying very focused on Scout.

"As it tried to circle back toward Scout, I realized I had to get Tonk to square off and face the bear. We had to get the bear to acknowledge us.

"We did. We got its attention - and the bear charged.

"So I charged at the bear."

Did she think twice about that?

"I had no hesitation, honestly," Bolster said. "Nothing in my body was going to let that little boy get hurt by that bear. That wasn't an option."

Tonk was on the same page.

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**With a ton of horse**, boulder-size hooves and a fire-breathing blonde thundering at it, the bear came within about 10 feet before skittering off to the side.

But it quickly angled to make yet another stab at getting to Scout and the boy - who had just fallen to the ground.

"Tonk and I had to go at the bear a third time before we finally hazed him away," she said.

"The boy had landed in some beargrass and was OK. Scout was standing nearby."

Bolster gathered the boy up with her on Tonk, grabbed Scout's lead and trotted down the trail.

"The boy was in shock," she said. "I looked back and could see the bear had continued to go away through the woods, but I had another five or 10 minutes of riding before I got back with the group."

Not until she reunited with her riders - all OK and standing in various stages of confusion with their horses - did she start to shake.

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I looked at Tonk, and he was wet with sweat and shaking, too," she said.

She was especially concerned for the boy's father, who probably suffered the most terror in the ordeal.

"He was fine, and I got my biggest tip of the season," Bolster said. "My biggest hope is that the boy isn't discouraged from riding. This was a one-in-a-million event."

For the next few days, the outfitter shut down the trail rides and Bolster joined other wranglers and a federal grizzly bear expert to ride horses through the area looking for the bear.

"They tracked it for a long way and concluded that it kept going out of the area," she said. "Judging from the tracks and my description of how high the bear came up on Tonk, the grizzly expert estimated it weighed 700 to 750 pounds.

"This was a case of us being in the wrong place as a bear was already in the act of chasing its natural prey. He was probably more persistent because he was really hungry."

Bolster and the other wranglers vowed to have bear spray on their belts to make sure they can defend their guests during breaks on the ground.

"But when you're riding, the horse is your best protection, if you can stay on," she said.

"Some of the horses I've ridden would have absolutely refused to do what Tonk did; others would have thrown me off in the process. Some horses can never overcome their flight-animal instinct to run away."

In those minutes of crisis, the big lug of a mongrel mount proved his mettle in a test few trail horses will face in their careers.

Tonk's mettle moved Bolster. She wasn't about to send him back to Wyoming with the other leased horses.

"Two weeks ago, I closed the deal and bought him," Bolster said as she was wrapping up her 2011 wrangling season.

"After what he did that day, he had to be mine."

Rich Landers can be reached at (509) 459-5508 or at [richl@spokesman.com](mailto:richl@spokesman.com).

Read more: [http://ravallirepublic.com/news/state-and-regional/article\\_99e231bf-ed57-5eac-8116-04e9b491a485.html#ixzz1Yj4NqJI9](http://ravallirepublic.com/news/state-and-regional/article_99e231bf-ed57-5eac-8116-04e9b491a485.html#ixzz1Yj4NqJI9)

(Reprinted by permission from Rich Landers email sent 9-22-11 Fran)

### 2012 Nominations

It's time to start thinking about officers for 2012. Don't know if any of this year's officers are planning to run again but if not we need someone to step up. In order to continue with the club, we need people to step-up. If you would like to run, please let one of the current officers know, don't worry if you don't know much about the job, we are all willing to help out.

Come to the next meeting and let us know what position you are interested in. Maybe you are not able to participate full time, maybe you could help out part 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.

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**Come Join Us! Jan 1—Dec 31, 2012**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FOR CHAPTER USE ONLY</b>
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**

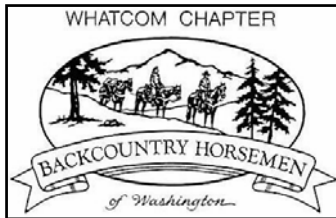
All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children.

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



**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.**



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*Next*  
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen  
*Meeting:*  
**General Meeting:**  
**Laurel Community Grange,**  
**6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, WA**  
**Meeting at 7:00**  
**Treats: Cindy Piccolo & Mitzie Carr**

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

