

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

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Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

September 2017

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.

Shorter days are coming soon. I hope that everyone has been out riding now that the smoke has all cleared out and the nice weather that we are having. I would like to thank Carol Ketchum and the members that work to make the horse rides a success for the Lions Camp Horizon campers. I'm sorry that I did not attend any of the sessions but what I understand it was a great time for the campers. It sounds like they are already trying to make plans to have us back next year.

Some of the members did pack supplies for WTA up at Hannegan Pass this month. There were a few hair raising moments during the crew pack in but everyone made it in and out ok. Roger with some help from the Skagit Chapter pack out the work crew the following week.

This is the time of the year for bees to start being a problem. I have already had a couple of occasions where bees have change the attitude of me and my horses. So be on alert for this somewhat unseen problem that can turn into a big wreck if you don't have a plan. Go out and have a safe ride and make it fun.

See you on the trail.

Rodney

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

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Whoops- Forgot An Important Rule

Finally- one of my favorite trails that had been blocked for two years was opened back up. It was pretty clear except for about 100 ft. down into a creek. Tall canary grass was interspersed with blackberries with a 12 “ wide deer path thru it, but with a little snipping of blackberries it was passable.

On the way back I decided to lead Reif and snip more berry vine. All of a sudden he stopped cold, then blew past me, right thru blackberry vines. I turned him back, wondering what in the world was going on. About two seconds later he went airborne, rearing and striking. I let go of the reins and watched the rear end of my horse as he ran back down into the creek. So what was going on?

I had forgotten one important trail rule. This time of year if a horse acts up on the trail- assume bees until proven otherwise

I quizzed a bee expert a few years ago, here are some suggestions for dealing with bees or wasps.

At the start of the ride inform novices what to look for and what to do. Novices tend to stop and ask “where” when someone yells “bees”. (I think “bees” is easier to understand when yelled than “wasp”). Yep, there is a difference, but both sting. They can be in the ground, in brush, or even inside your barn or trailer.

The first sign your horse gives is often stomping the feet or shaking the head. Granted something else might be going on but yell “bees” and start off at a trot. You don’t need to gallop; bees are not fast and won’t follow very far. They will usually stop in a few hundred ft. If it is a good safe trail lope but otherwise trot. Then stop and check tack just in case something else is wrong.

Note- the “bee” instructions are counter to usual trail riding safety. Normally if your horse acts up it’s best to stop and find out what is wrong. Don’t stop if there is any chance there are bees.

One or two riders can often pass ground wasps or paper wasps without an issue. It is usually the 2nd or 3rd horses in a line that get stung first. So large groups are a problem. Try to turn back if possible if your horse hasn’t reached the bee spot but be ready for a temper tantrum if the rest of the horses are galloping off.

If you have to pass the area go one at a time. The bees will settle in a few minutes and you can trot your horse through. Hang on though; your horse might get stung. Then wait for following horses within their sight.

Stay close to your horses if you tie up for lunch or for a work party. Check the ground for bees and the bushes for paper wasp nests.

Conclusion-During bee season if your horse stomps once or shakes his head twice on the trail assume it is bees, hang on, and take off at a trot.

**2017
TRAIL BOSSES**

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

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**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

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360-599-2461

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
August 9, 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 Helen Almojera and seconded by Verna McLeod to approve the July 2017 Minutes as published. Motion carried.

Guests: Guests were former members Margie and Wheeler.

Sunshine: Get well cards were sent out to Therese Jones and Harry Tiemersma, and a Thank You card was sent to Lll John for the donation to the Confidence Builder.

Treasurer: Jackie gave the treasurer's report. There are 146 members. Also, the Confidence Builder made \$45.

Director/Legislative: Bill mentioned there is not much going on at the moment. He reported the ride to Excelsior he had donated at Rendezvous has been rescheduled with the people who won the trip.

Volunteer Hours: Verna read off the list of volunteers. 291 hours were logged for July.

Work Party/Trail Coordinator/Bosses: Roger reported on the work party at Stewart/Y Road. The trail was cleared from Ogallala down to the road. There are no other work parties scheduled at this time. Roger and Joe are going to Blanchard on Friday to patch the bridge until it can permanently be repaired.

Trails: **S. Fork Park:** Rodney reported on Mike's meeting with DNR in Olympia. The trailhead will hopefully be open the end of August, but only the trail around the perimeter will be open to horses at this time. The creek crossing has been moved to the old bridge on Hutchinson Creek. **Lake Whatcom:** Sharon said to please be aware of notices on the ALERT board. Right now the 15 mile loop is closed at the old bridge and you cannot make the loop. Re: the new signage at Stewart, the Parks Dept. is making it for us. **Chuckanut:** Jackie is going to walk the trail Friday to see what is going on with the fires. **Saxon:** Rocky has been up there. The Land Trust owned land is in really good shape with a good clearing job to Edfro Creek. He and others are supposed to be packing into Hannegan Pass this weekend but he has not heard back if that is still going to happen.

Fund-raising: Helen reported that they are looking into (1) holding an event/festival at Misty River. Bob and his daughter Nicki have offered use of the facilities free of charge. Their trail course will hopefully be done by next April. Helen's committee also mentioned bringing in a trainer and having a trailer backing contest. She did say that our State insurance will not cover pony rides and we would have to purchase a rider for \$200. Other ideas: (2) having a prize ride or scavenger/treasure ride at a regularly scheduled ride – the money to go toward supporting our packers; (3) a donation envelope at Stewart to be available for anyone wishing to donate to help support the trailhead. This could be mailed in, or we could look into installing a drop box/pipe like what is used at Pilchuck at the Glass Factory. **Motion was made by Jackie Yereance to approve the three fund-raising ideas. Seconded by Bill McKenna. Motion carried.** Dawn Weaver volunteered to help plan the fund-raiser at Misty River.

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**Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
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August 9, 2017**

Web Site: Rodney asked that everyone take a look at the new layout of our web site. Letitia Wheeler is looking for feed-back. Let Fran or Letitia know its ease of use, etc. Tim Surratt mentioned there is nothing under “Trails” yet.

Stewart Mt. Trailhead Sign: The Parks Dept. is making this for us.

Other: It was mentioned that some horse people left piles of manure on the trails at Berthusen Park. Hikers kicked them off. It is posted that horses **must** get off their animals and remove it or we risk losing those trails. As it is we can only ride there during the week during the summer months. It is closed to horses the rest of the time.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lynn Johnson

There was a demonstration by Rodney after the meeting on high-lining and hobbling animals.

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

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



Aug 28—Monday

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

Sept 13th Wednesday

**General meeting and potluck at Misty River Ranch.
5690 North Fork Road, Deming.** Go east on Mt. Baker Hwy, turn Right on Mosquito Lake Rd, turn Left on North Fork Rd turn right at 5690 N. Fork Rd.
Potluck at 6:00 p.m. so bring your favorite dish to share. Be sure to bring your plate, utensils and beverage. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Oct 2nd Monday

Board Meeting at Roundtable Pizza, dinner at 6:00pm meeting at 7:00pm.

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!



Stewart Mtn.



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



Dues are from January 1st thru December 31st.

NO-THAT-APPLI-CATION MEMBERSHIP

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 Carol Ketchum, 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	Chapter Name (or Independent): WHATCOM COUNTY If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW dues have been paid for 2017:									
Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)												
	Contributing	\$75.00										
	Sustaining	\$125.00										
	Patron	\$250.00										
	Benefactor	\$500.00	<table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Chapter Dues</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Additional Chapter Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>Chapter Subtotal</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Grand Total (State+Chapter)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table>		Chapter Dues	\$10.00	Additional Chapter Donation	\$	<i>Chapter Subtotal</i>	\$	Grand Total (State+Chapter)	\$
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	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00										
State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)												
Additional State Donation		\$										
<i>State Subtotal</i>		\$										

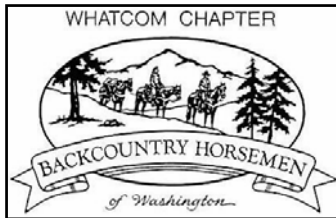
LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

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
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(360) 734-2567



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Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen
Meeting:
General Meeting: Sept 13, 2017
Misty River Ranch
5690 N. Fork Road, Deming, WA
Potluck at 6:00 for potluck,
Bring a dish to share!
Meeting at 7:00

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

