

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

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P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2020

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Notes from the President

April 2020

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.

To all our members:

We will be cancelling our Board meetings and General meetings for the month of April until further notice. Since we have scheduled rides and work parties in April, those will be cancelled also. In May we can reevaluate and wait until further notice. Thank you everyone for all your continued support during this COVID 19 outbreak. I know we are ALL impacted by this financially, mentally, physically and emotionally. I am grateful to know that parks, natural lands, regional trails, backcountry trails and beaches will remain open for now.

Now is the time "I have been wanting to" .. you know what I mean. Take the time to read that special book, call someone, write a letter, clean the tack room, organize your emails or go for a ride. We have all of those things we have been wanting to do and always push them off to the side. Try it, you will like yourself for it.

It was brought up at our meeting that "Baiting" the Elk at Les Hilde, which is disturbing, has been going on. I reached out to Gary Bellows Education and Enforcement Warden DNR NW Region his message reads as follows;

"I have seen some leftovers from people dumping fruit, I have not seen much animal activity around these areas. I think the only people that can hunt late like this, are the tribes and I don't have any jurisdiction over their hunting practices. I have seen where they throw bait out to get the elk used to coming to a site, then they put a trap out and catch the elk for studies and to put collars on them. I hope this is what they are trying to do. If any of the users see bait sites I have no problem letting WDFW know what's going on. Please fill free to call me with the location of sites you find and I will gladly pass them on.

Thanks for all you do and I enjoyed the meeting. "

Gary. Phone # 360.708.7629.

Our annual auction has been postponed to a later date which was voted by the members at our last meeting. Melinda is still the contact person if you would like to help or donate any items.

If you want to work on the trails be safe and shout out to others thru your own social media, your emails or call on the phone regarding working on the trails. I embrace everyone's enthusiasm, you are all still riding the trails, you are working on relieving your stress, you are paying attention to your body, feelings, your spirit and helping others in need.

~Ride on thru this journey and enjoy. Be healthy and safe.

Cindy P President

Vet Notes Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.

Coronavirus- the following information is from the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC)

How to stay healthy around animals

In the United States, there is no evidence to suggest that any animals, including pets, livestock, or wildlife, might be a source of COVID-19 infection at this time. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

- Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Take pets to the veterinarian regularly and talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.

For more information, visit CDC's [Healthy Pets, Healthy People website](https://www.cdc.gov/healthy pets/healthy people/).

2020 TRAIL BOSSES

Cindy Piccolo
360-961-4839

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Joe Remenar
360-818-4481

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR

Roger Nelson
360-599-2461

PACKING COORDINATOR

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Sunshine Committee

If you know someone that needs a little ray of sunshine, please contact Michelle McKenna at 360-599-2526 or send her an email at: wintercreek10@gmail.com.

Roger Nelson: Get well card sent to Roger as he had cataract surgery.

Gary Grinde: Thinking of you card sent to Gary, him Mom passed away the middle of March.

FOR SALE:



Horse trailer is a Logan 2 horse straight laid with ribbed floor mats, minor rust slide out, padded saddle racks ramp is also matted. Had it checked at tire shop, bearings are in good condition. \$1500, firm on the price. Call Michelle at 360-599-2526 or send email at wintercreek10@gmail.com.

Check out our Website:

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

A Special Thank You to:

Laurel Farm & Western Supply

America's Horse Country

Weylin & Amy Eldred

325 W Laurel Rd., Bellingham 360/398-1216 *

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Hours: Mon- Fri: 8:30am. to 7 pm; Sat: 8:30am.to 6:00

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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

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**Whatcom Chapter BCH
General Membership Meeting minutes
March 11, 2020**

Acronyms: WTA- Washington Trails Assoc. PNTA: Pacific NW Trail Assoc. SWITMO: Skagit, Whatcom, Island Trail Maintenance Organization

The meeting was called to order at the Laurel Grange by Cindy Piccolo at 7:03.

After the Pledge of Allegiance the agenda and Feb minutes were approved by Sam and Gary A seconded.

Our guest speakers were introduced. Kelsey and Amanda Martin spoke on equine digestion and a sugar and starch-free supplement.

Hospitality/Guests: Amanda Martin was welcomed as a new member.

Sunshine: Michelle McKenna has taken over the sunshine committee

Reports:

Director/Legislative: Bill McKenna: Bill, Cindy, and Milt attended legislative day in Olympia. They were able to network with other groups and with our legislators. Anyone can make an appointment with our representatives to discuss issues.

The animal waste issue is still being worked on by the health dept.

Rendezvous has been postponed one year due to the corona virus. They would like to hold our table reservation for next year, i.e. we will not get a refund. This was approved by the chapter. The consignment store may go online, items will be held for one year. Individuals can get a refund for their dinner reservation or can donate it.

On-line registration: Bill reported that two board members are trying to set up WTA's type of system for BCH. Joe Remenar met with the forest service and WTA, PNTA, and SWITMO to set up dates on work SWIMO work a lot in the Baker Lake area at Swift Creek.

Excelsior: puncheon has been removed, turnpikes will be installed. Gravel will be found on site. Chair Nine will provide free pizza for that work party

Schreiber's: the gravel is at the parking lot. He cautioned that the road into Schreiber's is not good. WTA will give us 3-3 day weekends of help. PNTA has a full crew to help. Whidbey Is Naval Air Station may help, they need volunteer hours for advancement. Horses not needed, we can camp at the trailhead

Skyline and Elbow Lake need work.

Volunteer Hours: Verna McLeod verna@soundengineering.com we had 203.5 hrs. for Feb.

Newsletter: Fran VanDiest fvandiest@msn.com articles in by the 20th

Trail Bosses: Roger Nelson: Roger is having to cancel work parties for now.

At Les Hilde Melinda Smull reported that someone may be baiting elk with corn, carrots.

At Stewart Sharon Hoofnagle reported someone cut the fence. However this is the 1st time in a few years that it has been cut. She repaired it.

Packing Coordinator: Rocky Leavitt reported we may be packing for PNTA in the Darrington area in July, Horse-shoe camp at Elbow Lake in mid July, and Hannegan in Aug.

Trail reports: Bill reported the Damfino Trail access was researched- it is not open to stock. Rocky reported that other trails off of Canyon Creek road may be open, the road needs work.

Auction: Melinda Smull reported that due to the corona virus we are postponing the auction. Whatcom County Health Dept. requested large group events be cancelled. The first available date at the logging grounds is Nov 14th. Joe Remenar moved that we cancel the April 4th auction for now. Andy McLeod seconded it.

Bill asked to amend Joe's motion to move the auction to Nov 14th. Sam seconded the motion. Bill was worried the Nov 14th slot may be lost, Motion passed, the auction is moved to Nov 14th 2020. There was a question on whether this was correct procedure- it will be checked.

Flyers need to be removed. Donors need to be notified and gift certificates re-dated. We may need a place to store items. Nancy can still store some.

Small farm expo: will most likely be cancelled

Meeting adjourned at approx. 8:40 submitted by Secretary Sharon Hoofnagle



CALENDAR



Due to the coronavirus, the following have been **CANCELLED!**

March 30th——Board meeting at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr. Bellingham.

April 4th——Annual Auction——rescheduled

April 8th——General Meeting at Laurel Community Grange

April 11th——work party

April 18th——Club Ride

For more information on the Coronavirus

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/360/Health-Department>

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Health>

Cindy

Paid Advertisement 9-2019—7-2020



Coming soon:
Whatcom County Manure Link



Is your pasture ready for nutrients?
Borrow Whatcom CD's manure spreader.

To schedule: www.whatcomcd.org/equipment or 360-526-2381 x104

2020 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

Michelle McKenna
360-599-2526

TRAIL HEAD COMMITTEE

Mike McGlenn
360-739-2619

SCRAPBOOK

Debbie Lagerwey
360-354-2804
Need Pictures!

Volunteer Hours

Remember to report your hours to Verna at

verna@soundengineering.com.

Any work you do on any of the trails, keep track of the hours and report them! If you are not sure, send info to Verna and she will check it out.

Fran

CLASSIFIED

** 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.

Email from Rick Foster regarding cancellation at Blanchard and Les Hilde

From: Foster, Rick (DNR)
 <RICK.FOSTER@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 3:24 PM
To: McKown, Hyden (DNR)
 <Hyden.McKown@dnr.wa.gov>;
Subject: Cancelled RE: Blanchard, Harry Osborne Maintenance & Operations Advisory Group Meeting

Hello, in light of the recent events it has been directed by DNR management for the health and safety of the public that recreation volunteer work parties or events are being cancelled until the end of April for Blanchard and Harry Osborne State forests in Skagit County and the Blanchard/Harry O maintenance group meeting.

Here is a list that are cancelled that I know of to date:

March 14th Skagit BCH co-sponsor Cancelled
March 20-22 WTA co-sponsor Cancelled
March 22 PNTA co-sponsor Cancelled
March 24th Blanchard/H.O. recreation maintenance meeting Cancelled
April 4th SWITMO co-sponsor Cancelled
April 11th PNTA co-sponsor Cancelled
April 18th SWITMO co-sponsor Cancelled
April 18th Skagit BCH co-sponsor Cancelled

Thank you for your understanding and as time progress's we will re-evaluate on when to start to schedule volunteer work parties or events.

Rick Foster

Baker District Recreation Manager
 Northwest Region
 Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 919 N Township ST
 Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
 360-856-3500
rick.foster@dnr.wa.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov

SAVE THE DATE!

November 14, 2020 **Whatcom Chapter Fundraiser Auction**



Due to the coronavirus, our auction that was scheduled for April 4th was postponed.

Melinda was able to reserve the next available date which is Saturday, November 14, 2020 for our auction at the Deming Logging Show.

The time will be the same:

5:30-7:00 pm – Silent Auction

7:15 pm – Live Auction

Thank you all for your donations and your patience. If you still wish to donate, please contact Melinda Smull at 360-595-2137.

So mark your calendars! Let your friends and relatives know. More information at a later date.

Fran

Paid advertisement Feb 2020—Jan 2021

SweetPro Premium Feed Supplements

Complete nutritional supplements for your equine

Starch & sugar free

Equilix & Equipride
 Distributed locally by
Zammer Co Horseworks LLC
 (360) 739-7524
 (360) 603-1539

BCHW Legislative Report March 2020

By Jeff Chapman, Legislative Chair

The 2020 Washington State legislative session ended on March 12, 2020. This is the “short” session being the mid-term year for a two year budget. While it is intended to focus on supplementing the budget and tweaking adjustments for the full term, it has ended up being a cram year where many legislators submitted legislation they thought had a chance of passing due to the need for rapid processing. That said, there were some 1700 bills that were under consideration.

We monitored 46 bills, 15 of which were carryovers from last session. As it turns out, the carryovers weren’t considered this session which left us with 31 bills. We had concerns with 11 of these bills and supported 20. Of the 20 we supported, 9 became law. Of the 11 we had concerns with, 3 became law. Of those 3 that became law, the one we had the most concern with was HB2317/SB6300 “Concerning Animal Welfare”. We spent a lot of time on this set of companion bills as they moved through the committees and chambers. They were amended a number of times, and we felt the final amendment made the version that became enacted acceptable to us.

The other 2 concern bills that passed were HB2242 “Concerning Travel Trailers” and HB 2571 “Meaningful Enforcement of Fish and Wildlife Violation.” We did not actively engage since our concerns were minor.

We are pleased with the 9 bills that passed that we supported.

HB 2579 Establishing a wild horse holding and training program at Coyote Ridge corrections center.

HB 2601 Concerning the authority of the parks and recreation commission to approve leases.

SB 6072/HB2338 Dividing the state wildlife account into the fish, wildlife, and conservation account and the limited fish and wildlife account.

SB 6168/HB2325 Supplemental operating appropriations. SB 6248/HB2324 Concerning the capital budget.

SB 6670 Encouraging access to state parks through cooperative programs with libraries.

The operating and capital budgets had items that we will be following up with (and no negative riders). There will be a new advisory group on recreation managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office. We will certainly want involvement in that. The State Parks request for funding for planning the bridge replacement for the burned Crab Creek Bridge (250,000) is in the budget. We expect to see a capital project request for the construction in the 2021 budget request.

We did support companion bills that would allow DNR to designate recreational shooting areas on their lands away from trailheads and camping areas. These bills had technical issues and didn’t pass, but we hope better worded bills come back in the long session. Our own Joan Fleming testified on the need to continue this discussion with the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee through the summer and fall.

The only Discover Pass change bill we supported was SB 6670 – mentioned above (it did pass).

In addition, a good deal of time and effort has been spent on the proposed revision of WAC 246-203-130 Domestic Animal Waste as recommended by the State Board of Health. The stiff rules in this revision would make owning and keeping horses virtually out of reach for the average horse owner or small boarding stable. In addition it is questionable whether you could ride horses on public lands without manure catchers. At the very least, creek fords would be a thing of the past. We have worked with livestock organizations, state agencies, and state legislators in issuing coordinated responses with the intent that either this effort not go forward, or if it is going to go forward, that a great deal of more time be put into a realistic and implementable proposal that doesn’t make criminals out of horse owners due to the unavoidable crime of producing manure.

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.



Saxon

On Thursday, March 19, 2020, Rocky went to Saxon, he was planning to take the benches to the picnic area but the trail needed a lot of work. He worked 5 hours clearing trail to Cavanaugh creek. On Saturday, March 21st, Rocky and Bob Rathjen went back to Saxon, they each used chain saw to clear the rest of the trail to the picnic tables. They also put up a couple of signs to the picnic area. The trail is now open, you can go riding.

Fran



Come Join Us!

Please go to BCHW.org, print out an application, read the Liability Release and sign, (all members **18 and over**), and enclose your cash or check:

- **Chapter members:** If paying by check, make it out **TO YOUR CHAPTER**, Attn: Helen, PO Box 28607, Bellingham, WA 98228
- **Independent members** (folks who are **not** joining a chapter), make check out to "BCHW", and mail application and payment to:
- **Dana Chambers ATTN: MEMBERSHIP**, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391



Whatcom Co.

PO Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228

Member Info

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Emailed Membership Card Request _____

Adult's name(s): _____

Children's name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Legislative district (if known): _____ County: _____

I DON'T WANT A MAILED NEWSLETTER: ☐ BCHW (Trailhead News) ☐ Chapter Newsletter

STATE MEMBERSHIP

Basic Memberships

- ☐ Single \$41.00
- ☐ Family \$54.00

Levels below include Single and Family

- ☐ Contributing \$75.00
- ☐ Sustaining \$125.00
- ☐ Patron \$250.00
- ☐ Benefactor \$500.00
- ☐ Lifetime (Single) \$1200.00

Additional State Donation \$ _____

State Subtotal \$ _____

CHAPTER 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.

Chapter Name (or Independent):
Whatcom Co.

If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW dues have been paid for 2020:

Chapter Dues \$10.00

Additional Chapter Donation \$ _____

Chapter Subtotal \$ _____

Grand Total (State+Chapter) \$ _____

LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

By signing this membership application, I confirm that I have read and understand the Liability Release accompanying this application and agree to its terms. (SEE REVERSE)

By signing this membership application, I agree to receive notices from BCH by electronic transmission at the above email address.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

"See payment and mailing info above"



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON LIABILITY RELEASE

THIS LIABILITY RELEASE IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BCHW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION LOCATED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OR ACCOMPANYING THIS FORM. BY SIGNING THE APPLICATION, YOU ARE ALSO AGREEING TO THE TERMS OF THE LIABILITY RELEASE.

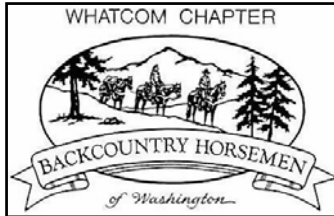
Read this document carefully before signing, it affects your legal rights. It must be signed by all Back Country Horsemen of Washington members.

Hazards and Risks: By signing below, I acknowledge that using horses, mules, equipment and tools may expose myself and/or my child, if I am signing for a minor child, to hazards. Horses or mules can misbehave or flee. Riding in open country could result in injury caused by dangerous or unstable riding surfaces, trail obstructions of various kinds, water crossings, wild animals, poisonous plants, extreme weather conditions, and other hazards. Other risks include errors of judgement by BCHW representatives assisting with this activity, or the misuse or failure of equipment and tools provided, if any. These hazards could result in property damage, serious physical injury, or death.

Additional Provisions: I authorize BCHW to provide or obtain for me medical care as is considered necessary or appropriate and I agree to pay all costs associated with such care and related transportation. I agree to pay all costs and legal fees incurred by BCHW in defending a claim or suit brought by me or on my behalf, or on behalf of the minor for whom I sign.

Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk and Compensation: I understand the nature of the activities I will be participating in, and their risks. I accept full responsibility for determining my own medical and physical ability to participate in the activities and that of my mount. I take full responsibility for any injury or loss, including death, which I may suffer, arising out of these activities, whether or not described above, including the loss, injury or death of my animals. **I hereby release BCHW, its members and the land owners from any liability for any such injury or loss to me and/or my minor child, if I am signing for a minor child, whether stated above or not.**

Back Country 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: April 8, 2020
Laurel Community Grange

CANCELLED

The General Meeting for April has been cancelled at this time due to the coronavirus.

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

