

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

August 2023

Notes from the President

Whatcom Chapter
P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2023

President:

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360-296-3512

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360-961-4839

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j.remenar@gmail.com
(2021-2023)

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360-599-2526
(2023)

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Fran Van Diest
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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.

To whom it may concern, it is almost August, still getting hay in, dry as it is, the Old Settlers' Parade is right around the corner, next is the Fair, Evergreen Fair, then Off to Grass Valley, CA and Mona, Utah, to show draft horses for me. I love it but it keeps me off the trails for a while. However I know when I can get back out there they will be in good shape thanks to the hard work of the BCH. So if You don't see me for a while, the Fall ride will be here before we know it! Ride on, Everyone

Roger E.



Free Cement picnic table.
July 24, 2023

Ryan and Mike worked really hard to get that heavy thing loaded. Great it can't be broken or burnt.

Colette Cloutier

Mike McGlenn and I put the table where the old one was at the trail head.

(The model used in this photo is over 18 years of age)

Ryan Heacock

(Thank you to Melinda Smull for finding it and for Ryan Heacock and Mike McGlenn for hauling table to Vedder trailhead!)

WBCH General Meeting minutes July 12 2023 Misty River Ranch

The meeting was preceded by a potluck and a clinic by Molly McDaniel, head trainer and instructor at Balanced Performance Training. She demonstrated on her mare, Tangy, on how to teach a horse or mule some valuable trail techniques, such as side pass and turns on the front and rear quarters. We had 3 head of stock and their owners that she worked with. Thanks to Bill and Tilly, Andy and Harley, Verna with Mocha.

The meeting was called to order by Roger E

The agenda was approved. The minutes of Junes general meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Reports:

Director/legislative: Joe R- State reported that one bank account was compromised by a check-washing scheme, the account was closed. There have also been scam emails.

BCHA has increased by one state- Texas.

Legislative: 2 bills on e-bikes were presented to Olympia, neither passed.

Wine Ride: they are looking for volunteers. Bill, Michelle, Cindy, Verna, and Andy have volunteered in the past.

Dues will increase for BCHA by \$5. BCHW has to decide if we should increase dues or just absorb the increase.

April is BCHA's 50 yr. anniversary.

Liability release: BCHW is adopting a new procedure for the releases. (Currently we sign a release when we renew our membership) The new procedure will require signing a release for every work party.

Records: we need to keep records currently for 7 years,

Credit cards: Currently Joe, Tim, and Fran have credit cards. Question is who keeps the receipts? Probably the person with the credit card.

We need to keep all records in digital form.

It was questioned if we need the liability forms for the Ferndale parade. We do not, only for club sanctioned events.

Executive committee: Bill announced that Joe is on the state executive committee.

Calendars: Bill has calendars for sale, one was given to Molly

Work coordinator: Roger N- we have a work party scheduled for this Saturday at Saxon; however it may be cancelled due to fire danger. Shut-down rules also apply to battery equipment. The Land Trust will try to haul gravel in August.

Parade: Roger E- Dennis Mauler has to have the paperwork in by July 15th. Dennis has info on the new route.

Y Rd: Sharon- The Mt Baker hwy closure is at the Van Wyck area. North and East County can access Y Rd as usual. People coming from Bellingham on the Mt Baker Hwy should take North Shore.

Roger N: Y Rd: at the work party last Sat Roger and Margaret Hamstra rode the S side by crossing the creek ford, The trail was clear up the hillside. Margaret H. had previously ridden to the old bridge site. They brushed out the trail coming down the hillside below Ogalala. They rode the north side up to the overlook.

Saxon work party: Andy- they put a culvert in to repair a slough-off. Bob, Rocky, Andy and Verna worked.

Vedder: we ordered the picnic tables.

Helmets: we have purchased 10 plain helmets. We also purchased 5 helmets with ear and eye protection. A Milwaukee helmet with several attachments was discussed. (there are ear protectors in the club trailer)

Triangular bandages: Sharon H. the bandages are an excellent immediate treatment in case of a traumatic wound. They should be carried by anyone operating power equipment.

Funds: Roger E- he questioned if we can donate excess funds to other causes. Bill- the state is very specific on our use of funds. Use has to meet our mission statement. We cannot give funds to other groups outside that statement. Discussion followed on possible uses- we may need funds at Silver Lake.

Silver Lake: Bill- Roger and Bill have studied the Silver Lake barn remodel. Roger E will work on an estimate and bring it back to our group.

Good of order

North Summit Camp: Verna M.- Verna and Andy camped there for a few days. They were impressed with the camp. Water may continue to be an issue so haul water with you for now.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle secretary

Tungsten Mine packing (the first and second week of July 2023)

This past couple of weeks has been filled with lots of miles and great scenery. The first week Vince Stremler, his son Soren, and mom Cheeta Stremler started the trip carrying in six loads for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association up the Thirty Mile trail out of Winthrop. Everything was good until it wasn't...

A couple of miles up the trail Soren's horse decided to unload him in a most inconvenient place and manner. The horse then rolled off the trail and down the bank a very long way. Soren managed to jump uphill as the animal was going over. He hurt his wrist quite badly so he and Cheeta decided to go back out to the truck and go down the hill to get some medical care. It hurt a lot but x-rays showed it was not broken. Vince kept going and completed the pack-in.

A week later, a guy named Harold and I went back up to Thirty Mile trailhead to do the pack out. Everything was going well again until it wasn't...

Going up the trail Harold's critters had a very hard time following along and just staying in line. They kept breaking their ropes and turning around and passing each other. After a couple hours on the trail, two of them decided they had had enough so they broke off from his herd and turned around and headed back. I told Harold I would wait for him to go get them.

Unknown to me, the two animals decided to go two hours back to the truck where Harold found them. He caught them up and headed back up the trail towards me but after a couple of miles the animals were too tired to continue so Harold made a camp beside the trail. The next day he decided to go back to the truck and go home. Meanwhile...

On that first day I waited over three hours for Harold to come back to me. He never came. What should I do now I asked my animules? They wanted to continue up the trail. I agreed and thought I had better get going because now daylight was a concern. Most of the trail was good, some of it was like going up a creek bed. I made it to the mine just before dark. Not knowing where the water was or anything else, I tied them up in some trees and gave them a bit of grain. Was afraid to give them too much because of no water.

At the mine there are a couple of still standing buildings. Since it was now pretty dark, I decided to stay in one of them so I didn't have to fool with putting up a tent using Braille.

There was a wooden slat bed in the corner. No problem, I put a piece of canvas down and put my air mattress on top. Everything was great until...

The air mattress decided it no longer wanted to hold air. After some terrible thoughts concerning the mattress, I decided to lay down anyway. I was plenty warm but everyone of those four-inch slats protruded into my side. Luckily, I needed to get up early anyway. Not sure if I got a minute's worth of sleep. I was never truly alone. I made friends with about 20 different mice. The next night I found a nice clear smooth spot outside on the ground. It looked like soft sand. All day long I daydreamed about the good sleep I was going to have. Turns out that piece of ground felt more like sleeping on a piece of plywood. The bonus though is that there were no mice...

Made the pack out ok. Roughly fifteen miles. Harold was not at the truck. He had left, I found out. There were three more packs up at the mine. I spent the night in the truck and got up about 4 am and saddled up again. We went in and out to the mine in one day. Thirty miles in one day is a long way but is doable. The animules did fine. All's well that ends well.

Rocky Leavitt

Pasayten packer

(Pictures on next page)

2023 TRAIL BOSSES

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

Andy McLeod
360-595-2744

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

PACKING COORDINATOR

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675



Old Tungsten mine area

Rocky's packing out trip in the Pasayten in July 2023.

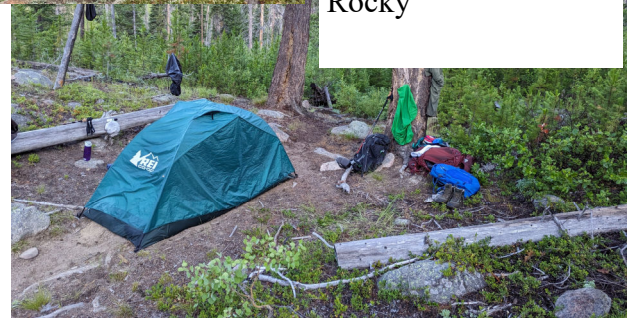


This is what a tent looks like when it is put right on the trail. Luckily, I could get around it. Thirtymile trail. Rocky

Below: Memorial to the 4 firefighters that perished in a valiant effort to battle the Thirtymile fire on July 10, 2001



Sleeping area



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

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- * Field Mowing
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360-815-0362

April—Sept'23

2023 TRAIL BOSSES

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

Andy McLeod
360-595-2744

WORK PARTY COORDINATOR
Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

PACKING COORDINATOR
Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

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: 8:30am. to 7 pm; Sat:
8:30am.to 6:00 pm. and Sun 9 am. to 5 pm.

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.



FARM SPEAKER SERIES

Sheep Flock Health & Pasture Management

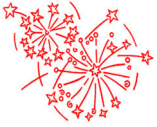
Thursday, August 17, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM
RSVP for farm location

Join us at Lydia's Flock, in Bellingham to learn with experts & peers about how they manage their pastured sheep! The event will feature a tour, discussion of pasture, herd, and pest management to encourage a successful and healthy flock, & a question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided.



RSVP:
Trevor Gearhart
tgearhart@whatcomcd.org
(360) 526-2381 ext. 105
www.whatcomcd.org/farm-speaker-series





CALENDAR



July 29, 2023—**Old Settler's Parade**, contact Dennis Mauler at 360-927-3844 if you plan to attend.

July 31, 2023—**board meeting** at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr. Bellingham, dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm and also by zoom

Aug 9, 2023—**general meeting**, we will be having a potluck/meeting at Misty River Ranch, potluck at 6pm and meeting at 7pm.

August 18th thru the 20th, 2023— camp out at Bryce Creek and invitation for a ladies campout. **Contact Cindy at cindypiccolo@gmail.com**, or call her at 360-961-4839 or Melinda at 360-595-2137 if you plan to camp out.

Oct 28, 2023—**22nd Annual Winery Ride** in Zillah, WA. We have made some changes to the registration forms this year. Only one participant per form unless it is a spouse or child. All additional riders will have to fill out and pay on their own form. For more information and registration options: [BCHW 2023 Winery Ride Info - Back Country Horsemen of Washington](#)

Volunteer hours for June 2023—Basic—51, skilled—44, Admin---35, travel---41 for a total of 177.5

Andy McLeod	Anne Graves - nm
Anonymous	Bill McKenna
Bob Rathjen	Cindy Piccolo
Divya Parkash - nm	Erin Recke
Fran Van Diest	Joe Remenar
Kerena Higgins - nm	Leanne Harmon - nm
Letitia Wheeler-nm	Linda Cain
Linda Leavitt	Margaret Hamstra
Melinda Smull	Michelle McKenna
Mike Price - nm	Robbie Harris
Rocky Hooper	Rocky Leavitt
Roger Edmonds	Sharon Hoofnagle
Tessa Shelton - nm	Verna McLeod

Volunteer Hours:

Report your hours to the volunteer coordinator:
Verna Walker at:
verna@soundengineering.com



2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Legislative:
Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

Leave No Trace
Bill McKenna
360-599-2526

Programs
Sharon Hoofnagle
360-7344258

Public lands committee
Tim Van Beek
360-472-5449

Membership committee
Cindy Piccolo
360-961-4839

Sunshine
Michelle McKenna
360-599-2526

Volunteer Hours
Verna McLeod
360-595-2744

Ways and Means committee
Tim Van Beek
360-472-5449

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.



Here are some photos of us in **Everson Summer Festival parade on July 8, 2023** representing Whatcom chapter of BCH.

Photos courtesy of Laurie Swartwood, Judy Tate and Sean Torres . Present: myself, Ryan Heacock, (carrying the flags), Marie Tiemersma, Laurie Swartwood, Kathy Adams, Tricia Morones, Nancy Giordano, Judy Tate and thank you to Skyler and Charlise— the cleanup crew. Eight of us plus cleanup crew. They announce each entry as they go by and they spent the time to find out what BCH does.

Colette Cloutier



Presentation by Molly McDaniel's at Misty River Ranch on July 12, 2023 prior to the general meeting.

Fran



Ladies Camping Weekend August 18-20th Bryce Creek Horse Camp

Come join us for a ladies weekend camping at Bryce Creek horse camp, heady road! The gate will be open on Friday, you can park at the gazebo. Potluck Saturday night @ 6pm, bring your musical talents to dinner. You can also just campout without horses, just come and enjoy the outdoors! Ride and have some fun!

Contact Cindy—360-961-4839 or Melinda—360-595-2137 if you plan to attend or have questions. Campsite \$40 donation.



From: Mike McGlenn <mikekmcglenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Fran VanDiest <fvandiest@msn.com>
Subject: Fwd: News Release: **Campfires Banned in All Portions of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area**

Good day Fran,
If you haven't received this already, please send this out to our mailing list.
Thank you, Mike, 20 Ju. 23

North Cascades National Park Service Complex News Release

Contact: Katy Hooper, katy_hooper@nps.gov

Campfires Banned in All Portions of North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area

Sedro Woolley, WA – Effective Monday, July 24, campfires or the ignition of wood, briquettes, or any fuel in fire pits, fire pans and barbeque grills, are banned in all portions of North Cascades National Park Service Complex – North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area. This includes all National Park Service lands and campgrounds along State Route 20 as well as Hozomeen and the entire Stehekin Valley. Stoves or grills that are solely fueled by liquid petroleum fuels for the purpose of cooking are allowed in all locations.

The burn ban helps to reduce the chance of human-caused wildfires during an unprecedented drought with prolonged high summer temperatures. Use caution when smoking and do not discard cigarette butts. Discharging, or using any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition or other incendiary devices in any location on federal lands is always prohibited.

If smoke or flames are visible, dial 911 or report at any ranger station.

www.nps.gov/noca

Katy Hooper ([she/her](#))

Deputy Chief, Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers

North Cascades National Park Service Complex

810 State Route 20 Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 | 360.854.7303 office | 360.855.8441 cell

Email from Hyden McKown, DNR July 3, 2023:

Hello Everyone,

Due to the prolonged warm and dry weather along with the increased number of fires in the region. Effective 7/4/2023 at 0001: The Fire Danger Adjective Level will change from High to Very High and the IFPL will change from a 1 to a 2 in zones 653, 656 and 658.

Level 2. Partial hootowl. The following may operate only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 p.m. local time: Power saws except at loading sites; Cable yarding; Blasting; Welding or cutting of metal. A one hour fire watch/security is required. A water truck/trailer is required to be on site in designated areas.

Thank you for your cooperation, patience, and understanding

Bill Waits

Wildland Fire Training and Dispatch Coordinator

Northwest Region

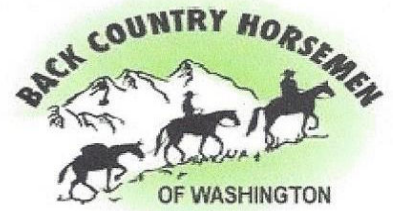
WA Department of Natural Resources

2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Come Join Us!

Go to BCHW.org and join or renew online. If online is not an option, please fill out this paper application and sign, (all members 18 and over must sign) enclose your cash or check made out to BCHW and mail to:

BCHW Membership Chair
 11404 210th Ave Ct E
 Bonney Lake, WA 98391



Whatcom Co.

Member Info

Check One: New Member Renewal Secondary Chapter Application Only

Adult's name(s): _____

Children's name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Legislative district (if known): _____ County: _____

National and State Newsletters are viewable online at BCHA.org/BCHW.org or Please mail a hard copy of Newsletters
 (Check Boxes) BCHW (Trailhead News) Chapter Newsletter (If available to mail)

STATE MEMBERSHIP

CHAPTER 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
- Lifetime (Family of 2) \$2000.00

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: **Whatcom Co.**

If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW State dues were paid:

Chapter Dues \$10

Please consider making a State donation: \$ _____
State Subtotal \$ _____

Please consider making a Chapter donation: \$ _____
Chapter Subtotal \$ _____
Grand Total (State+Chapter) \$ _____

NOTICES

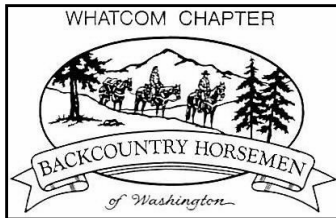
By signing this membership application, you will agree to the terms of our Liability Release. You can read it on our website at bchw.org, under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

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.

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Signature: _____ **Date** _____



Fran Van Diest
WBCH Newsletter Editor
723 Van Wyck Rd
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 734-2567



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



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting:
General Meeting:
Aug 9, 2023

Misty River Ranch.
5690 N. Fork Rd. Deming, WA
Potluck at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm

