

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

June 2023

Notes from the President

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P. O. Box 28607
Bellingham, WA 98228
2023

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(2021-2023)

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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.

We are heading into summer and our trail crew has a number of work parties set up. If every member goes to just one work party, we can get a lot of trails ready. Looking forward to our Summer general meetings, we have some interesting speakers lined up, so plan on attending them all.

That's it for now, see you between the ears!

Roger Edmonds

Auction, May 13, 2023 at the Deming Logging Show place

Well we made it through another auction. I am pleased to say it was a great success. As you know we have an amazing auction committee that worked their behinds off and spent tons of hours and personal miles to make this happen. Please, if you run into any of these terrific people give them a big thank you.

Our auction committee members include Fran Van Diest, Sharon Hoofnagle, Debbie Lagerwey, Sam Miller, Nancy Giordano, Bill and Michelle McKenna, and Marie Tiemersma. Also lots of help from Judy Tate. The day of the auction we had an abundance of help moving items, setting things up, working in the silent auction area, the Live auction and the office and another great announcement from Mike McGlenn.

In addition to auction committee a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped out: Susan Sebastian, Lisa Oostema, Geri Surratt, Laurie Swartwood, Carol Ketchum, Judy Kinna, Lynn Johnson, Verna and Andy Mcleod, Tricia Morones, Shirley Todhunter, Joe and Donna Remenar, Bob Rathjen, Rocky Leavitt, Cindy Piccolo, Monica Uruchurtu, and the great auctioneers we had, the Roosma's.

Thank you to everyone for your donations and support of this fundraiser.

Melinda Smull
Committee Chairperson

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Social License to Operate

I just finished a webinar on "social license to operate" and how it applies to the horse world.

When an activity has society's approval or acceptance, it is said to have a "social license to operate" (SLO). Another definition of SLO is: SLO refers to the level of ongoing approval a community gives to an industry or project. The social license gives legitimacy to operate beyond something simply being legally allowed.

SLO is changing society. Look at football players and traumatic brain injuries. Helmets have improved but there is still a long way to go. Hard to imagine a world without football. Elephants no longer perform in circuses. Greyhound races are banned in all states but one.

SLO is applied to all aspects of life, but where animals are concerned it is most often applied to animal welfare.

Humans have utilized horses for transportation and as a work animal throughout our history but abuses have occurred. Fortunately, things have and are changing. Whipping the race-horse is being limited. Soring the Tennessee Walker show horse is being fought. There is a tremendous amount of research on the cause of break-downs in the race and eventing areas. However, there is still some abuse.

In general, the horse has it pretty good and the trail horse has it exceptionally good. Most have at least some turn out daily and many are turned out 24/7. Many have loafing sheds where they are free to rest or wander. Most only work a few hours a week and seem to enjoy the trail. They are considered companion animals.

The equestrian world needs to maintain and strengthen its social license to operate for it to have a future.

Hikers will often comment on a sweaty horse. Primates and horses are two of only a handful of animals that noticeably sweat. Dogs use panting as a cooling mechanism. The sweaty horse and panting dog are not necessarily over-worked.

Spurs and whips are sometimes needed as a safety issue to move an animal quickly but most riders forgo them or use a rounded spur.

Horses generally enjoy their jobs, be it running on a track, clearing jumps, or heading down a trail. If they don't like it, they won't perform well and are generally moved on to some other event.

We need to keep doing a good job of portraying trail riding as what it is: an awesome connection between rider and animal based on respect and affection, mutually dependent on each other.

**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

Join BCHW

Join online at: <https://www.bchw.org/>, click on members/join/renew box to join online or download a membership application.

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 BCHW Annual Auction

Our annual auction was held on May 13, 2023 at the Deming Logging Show place. We want to thank everybody that helped make this a successful event! Special thanks to Ken Roosma and his helpers for agreeing to be our auctioneer at the last minute! Thank you to all the businesses and individuals that continue to support Backcountry Horsemen of WA by donating an item or helping out with our auction!

We appreciate all the support the community has given us thru out the years to continue to keep trails open for all users.

Below is a list of all the businesses and individuals that donated for 2023! Please show your support by visiting all the businesses and let them know we appreciate their help!

Fran

Herman Almojera

Len Honcoop Gravel

Riverside Reds

Barbies Berries

Sharon Hoofnagle

Rusty Wagon

Barrett Transmission

J & L Hay Express

Safety Home Address

BB Stables

Lynn Johnson

Angie Schutte

Dick Bedlington Farms

Carol Ketchum

Susan Sebastian

Blue T Lodge (Connie)

Diane Kimker

Skagit Chapter - BCH

Michele Bennett

Kulshan Veterinary

Stephanie Smith

Mick Blakely

Leroy & Debbie Lagerwey

Melinda Smull

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Spruce it up

Bony Pony

Laurel Farm Supply

Starkenburg Shavings

Chair 9 Restaurant

Linda Leavitt

Stremler Gravel

Circle A Trailers

Curt Maberry

Lorna TeVelde

Colette Cloutier

Mike McCaffrey

Leslie Tiemersma

Rena Colton

Mike McGlenn

Marie Tiemersma

Conway Feed

Bill & Michelle McKenna

Rick and Shirley Todhunter

Crossroads Grocery

Meridian Equipment

Tony's Tavern

Amanda Curtis

Mt. Baker Mobile Mixing LLC

Pam Torgerson

Matt Eldridge

Northland Diesel Service Inc.

Tractor Supply Company

Nancy Giordano

Northwest Propane

Monica Uruchurtu

Growsource, Inc.

Olympus Containers

VanderYacht Propane

Walden Haines

Lisa Oostema

Jackie Yereance

Hemplers

Bob and Cathy Rathjen

Danielle Young

Robert Holt DVM

Joe & Donna Remenar

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

NWTS
 NW Tractor Services, LLC

Doug Bajema
 Owner

- * Brush Removal
- * Field Mowing
- * Rototilling
- * Fertilizing

360-815-0362

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

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



Farm Speaker Series

Disaster Preparedness For Livestock

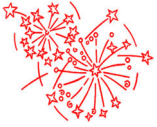
Thursday, June 8, 2023
 6:00-7:30 PM
 RSVP for farm location

Join us for a walking tour of Emphyrean Farm while learning more about disaster preparedness and local wildfire threats. Topics include local resources on wildfire hazards, mitigating risk on your property and help building your evacuation plan and farm logistics. Refreshments will be provided.



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





CALENDAR



June 3, 2023—National trails days at Blanchard. We are hoping for our usual participation at a work party and meal with the DNR at Blanchard. Plans are in progress. More information later.

June 5, 2023—board meeting at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr. Bellingham, dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm and also by zoom

June 14 2023-----general meeting, we will be having a potluck, either at Vedder Trail-head after a work party, or at Misty River: potluck at 6pm and meeting at 7pm. **More information at a later date, if we have a work party what time to be there.**

Volunteer hours for April 2023

Basic—4.5 hrs., skilled—10.5 hrs.,
LNT/educ—50 hours,
Admin—86 hrs., travel—83,
mileage—234 miles

- Amanda Curtis
- Andy McLeod
- Bill McKenna
- Cindy Piccolo
- Donna Remenar
- Fran Van Diest
- Geri Surratt
- Joe Remenar
- Letitia Wheeler
- Marie Tiemersma
- Melinda Smull
- Michelle McKenna
- Mike McGlenn
- Nancy Giordano
- Robbie Harris
- Rocky Leavitt
- Roger Edmonds
- Roger Nelson
- Sam Miller
- Sharon Hoofnagle
- Tim Van Beek
- Verna McLeod
- Walden Haines--nm

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.

BOARDING

One stall w/attached mud free gravel paddock available in private barn in NW Ferndale. Board (\$400.00/mo.) includes first cutting local hay, shavings, feeding and cleaning twice a day. You supply grain/supplements. Grass turnout available from mid May through October. Trails on property accessible May through November. Minutes from Sunset Farm Park. Preference given to someone who is willing to do chores occasionally so we can take a long weekend off!

Robbie Harris 360.319.1138



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

WBCH General Meeting minutes May 10, 2023 Laurel Grange

Meeting was preceded by 30 min social time.

The meeting was called to order by Vice president Cindy Piccolo. at 7 pm
Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll call was taken. Zoom was not available.

The speaker was Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.- the talk was on “weird horse behavior”, actions of horses that are normal to them but unexpected by people. The actions were described. Members volunteered good ideas on how to deal with them.

Business meeting

Approval of agenda: Sam moved to approve, Bill seconded, agenda approved.

Approval of minutes from April 2023 as printed in the newsletter: Melinda moved, Andy seconded, approved.

Agenda requests from the membership called for- does any member have something to bring up: no requests.

Volunteer hrs.: Verna M- April 234 hrs. reported

Board reports:

Trail Bosses: Andy McLeod- Andy attended a meeting on Monday May 8th with the DNR concerning the Les Hilde Trailhead. The trailhead has been greatly impacted by homeless camps, beginning Tues May 16, 2023 the trailhead will be closed. The trails will remain open but the parking lot, shelter, etc. will be closed. People can park along the road. The trailhead will reopen July 1 for day use only. Camping will be closed for 2023. Roads to Cowboy Campsite and private properties will be open.

A handout from Skagit BCH explaining the situation is attached..

Trail work- Les Hilde :the work on lower Josephine is about done. Olsen Creek/Stewart-The DNR did not get the grant for the bridge.

National Trails Day- Dan with the DNR is working out details. Gravel haul or puncheon are possibilities. Club discussion followed: Horse people like to finish a project once started but the event is also a networking event through sharing a meal .By the time the packers finish the work and care for stock it is late and most folks have left.. Last year the DNR stayed and served food to the packers but we missed the networking- will try to work this out. We will prepare a safety talk for the people working with the horses.

Auction: Melinda S- we need an ice chest for workers water. We will be serving water, coffee, and tea, help is needed on auction day

Sat: Sharon and Sam will have their trailers at Nancy’s at 8:30 am, help is needed to load up there and unload at the logging grounds. Melinda S is hauling the grain and the plantar. The auctioneer is sick but is finding us a replacement. Bill worked on the club trailer, Roger will haul it to the grounds. Sharon is bringing the tri-fold display. Food will be available from the food truck from 4-4:45. Melinda will take photos at Nancy’s tomorrow.

Good of the order: Verna has 3 kids tickets available to the circus June 6 to 10th at the Lynden Fairgrounds. Move to adjourn by Andy, seconded by Cindy

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 submitted by Sharon Hoofnagle secretary.

(Letter from Skagit regarding Les Hilde on following page)

May 9 2023

Chris Hankey, DNR Baker District Manager, joined us at our BCHW Skagit meeting tonight to discuss the current situation at the Les Hilde trailhead and to make the following announcement:

! Beginning Tuesday, May 16th 2023, the Les Hilde trailhead will be closed. The trails will remain open, but all access to the parking areas, shelter, etc will be ecology blocked-off. DNR plans to reopen the trailhead on July 1 for day-use only and the trailhead will be closed to camping for 2023. Medford Road will be gated next to the trailhead but will reopen for hunting season. This gate does not prevent users from reaching Cowboy Campsite or other private residences.

This decision was not made lightly and Chris listed many reasons why this became the current answer. To lightly summarize it:

- Laws put in place during COVID have not been lifted that allow people to live on public lands, and there is no current guidance on when that will end. They are unable to easily move people out of the trailhead because of this.

- Timber theft and other crime is out of control at the trailhead.

- DNR lost a law enforcement agent for the region to the Olympia region (Capital Forest) due to funding. They are currently unable to patrol all their lands fully with the one current officer in place in the Baker region. This makes triaging the "campers" with the current laws in place nearly impossible.

- Law enforcement believes that this will give the trailhead time to clean out, break habits and hopefully move us towards a more sustainable, safe trailhead.

Our local senator, Keith Wagoner, was present and will be working on this as he can. I will be writing up a more detailed list of questions and answers for our newsletter if you are a member to review.

Ways you can help DNR and BCHW create a better trailhead:

- Join BCHW! You don't need to attend meetings or work parties to heard. We are working at the state level on creating a letter template for people to send out, communicating with DNR and other policy makers and chapters to help the situation. We will continue to support the trails and work to secure future access to the trailhead!

- Write to your elected officials! County Commissioner, Public Lands Commissioner, and local legislators. Ask them to remove the current laws in place causing this issue and ask them to fund another permanent Law Enforcement Officer for the Baker Region. Make them aware of what you have witnessed, that you are upset about our loss of use, and why it is important to protect and enforce on our public lands!

- Direct any questions, concerns and comments about the trailhead to:

- Chris Hankey, DNR Baker District Manager

Chris.Hankey@dnr.gov

- Officer Sam Ramirez, DNR Law Enforcement Officer

Sam.Ramirez@dnr.gov

- Hilary Franz, Public Lands Commissioner

cpl@dnr.wa.gov

Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands

MS 47001

Olympia, WA 98504-7001

360-902-1000

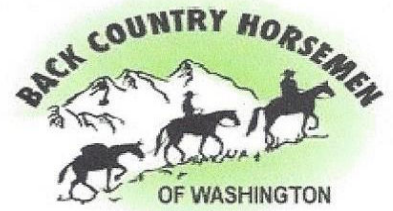
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2023 NON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

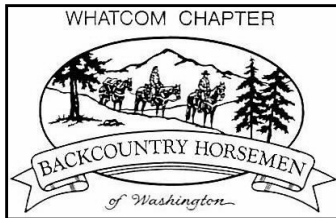
By signing this membership application, you will agree to the terms of our Liability Release. You can read it on our website at bchw.org, under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

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
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(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:
June 14, 2023**

**More info later, possibly work party at Vedder and then
potluck and meeting at 7pm or will just have a potluck
and meeting at Misty River Ranch.
Potluck at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm**

