

WHATCOM CHAPTER



Newsletter of the Whatcom Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

TRAIL TALES

May 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.

Welcome to May! It is time to get serious about hitting those trails. And it is hard to hit them if you can't find them. So let's all make an effort to get out there and brush cut, weed whack and generally clean those trails. We will be having scheduled trail work so come on out and make a difference.

On another note we are in the process of integrating the BCHA youth program into the BCH of Whatcom in the near future and the future of our organization is/will be in the hands of our youth. So here is another chance for you to give back to BCHW. See you out there with a tool in your hands!

Roger Edmonds, President

What a wonderful time to spend with new friends and rekindle with old friends. Great turnout of riders and non riders. Thank goodness everyone had an opportunity to ride before the rains came. Of course the food was delicious and to sit around a warm and inviting fire.

I would like to thank Melinda Smull, Andy McCleod, Judy Kina, Sage Hollins and Joe Remenar for tagging the ride the day before the event. It is so meaningful to know that the ride is safe and enjoyable for everyone. A shout out to Judy Kinna who went out a couple days after the event and picked them up. What also is helpful is we have the chapter walkie talkies to know where the lead riders are and if they are safe. Thank you Rocky Leavitt and Roger Edmonds leading a group out to show them our wonderful Hedy Road Trail system.

Thank you Michelle McKenna, Joe Remenar, Melinda Smull and Roger Nelson for helping me decorate the Gazebo for our event. I would also like to thank everyone who comes together to help put all the supplies away after the event.

Without this Whatcom Chapter family we would not be able to have these fun events and this family always steps up to the plate to make sure everyone has a great time.

~Cindy Piccolo Vice President.

VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Colic in Horses- Is It Urgent?

Dr David Freeman, head of the Dept of large animal surgery at the University of Florida presented information on equine colic referral at the 2022 Amer. Assoc of Equine Practitioners Convention.

Colic is a generalized term for abdominal pain. It could be something simple like gas colic or it could be a life-threatening strangulation. Humans often get upset gastro-intestinal tracts because of our diets, dogs do also., but upset GI tracts are not normal for the horse, it is always serious.

Dr Freeman cautions against delaying referral to a surgical facility. Freeman attributed delay to several owner and trainer misconceptions about colic surgery. *"They think it is rarely successful; the horses are never the same; or a sick horse can't handle the travel, surgery or anesthesia. Statements like "surgery is not an option". could be, in part, due to cost as a major issue. However, it is not uncommon for an owner's sentiment to change as the horse's progression worsens. However, by then too much time could have elapsed and the window of "golden opportunity" for colic surgery has passed."* *"It is important to get a horse to surgery before the bowel experiences irreversible changes.*

I agree with Dr Freeman. Most colics do not require surgery and the horse responds well to medical treatment at home. But if they do not improve, we need to get the horse to the surgery center for observation before they deteriorate.

So here are some guidelines. Any sign of a colic, even if mild like off feed, lying down, is a concern. Call your veterinarian for advice . More serious signs would be rolling repeatedly, pacing, call your vet, emergency. Don't administer any medication if your vet can get there within an hour. Medications will make the horse look better but will not correct the problem. The horse could worsen because the underlying problem hasn't been corrected. An example of this is an impaction colic. Owners have been known to administer painkillers for days, turning an easily treatable condition into a lethal one. It is easier for the veterinarian to assess the seriousness of the condition if the horse is not medicated.

Here is the important point: if the horse is seriously ill we may recommend the horse go to a surgical facility for observation and treatment. They may not need surgery, but they will be on site if it is needed. Often it takes some time to prepare for transport and the surgery may be some distance away. The referral center may have several patients that come in the same day. The surgical team may need to be called in.

So what if you are on a trail ride? This is covered in my wilderness first aid class in depth, but I will try to simplify it here. I recommend the trail rider carry flunixin in their saddle bags. However don't give it at the first sign of colic. The most common cause of rolling or pawing on the trail is an itchy horse crossing a sandy area. Keep moving and give the horse a few minutes to see what happens. Colic tends to be spasmodic. If signs re-occur in 10-15 minutes you need to re-think. If you are in a dangerous area, cliffs, bridges, etc. go ahead and give a dose. I recommend getting a horse out and headed for home if they need the painkiller. They may look improved due to the meds but If you wait too long you may have trouble getting them out.

In summary, Dr. Freeman urged equine practitioners to educate owners and caretakers about colic surgery well in advance of a necessary situation. He said veterinarians also should discuss the possibility of acquiring equine surgical insurance. Teamwork between the owner, the referring DVM and the surgeon helps to resolve misconceptions about cost estimate and prognosis of surgery, as well as avoiding duplication of procedures. Modern surgery is highly successful. Even older horses can recover well but all issues should be discussed early in the event of any serious health issue.

**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

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.

WBCH General Meeting minutes April 12, 2023 Laurel Grange

Meeting was preceded by 30 min social time.

The meeting was called to order by President Roger E. at 7 pm

Pledge of Allegiance was said. Roll call was taken. Three members joined by zoom.

Our guest speaker was introduced: Steve Avila from Whatcom City Zen. He described a program he developed to protect trailheads from vehicle prowls.

The Whatcom City Zen is a volunteer non-profit organization, (501(c)3) that rotates thru Whatcom County trailheads to deter vehicle prowls. Volunteer's sign up for 30 minutes shifts. A canopy, chairs, and snacks encourage interaction with trail users and act as a deterrent to criminal activity. It also encourages community interaction with both trail users and neighbors. They also have neighborhood trash pick-ups and graffiti removal. Steve currently subsidizes much of the work.

Volunteers can sign up for shifts by emailing: whatcomcityzen@gmail.com. You can also sign up to receive notification of trailhead surveillance.

The sessions are fun, volunteers often stay longer than they planned. visiting with folks. Folks are encouraged to sign up for sessions, maybe then enjoy a ride knowing their rig is being protected.

Business meeting

Approval of agenda: Verna moved to approve, Andy seconded, agenda approved.

Approval of minutes from March as printed in the newsletter: Verna moved, Tim seconded, approved.

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

Reports from the board

Donation to BCHA (Backcountry Horsemen of America) requested: Roger E-. A request was described. This donation is usually requested annually or bi-annual. We did not budget for it but we usually donate. At the board meeting a motion to donate \$250 was made by Bill M., seconded by Sharon H., passed unanimously. Since it is not budgeted for, it will go before the general membership for a vote at this meeting. There is no deadline.

Discussion: it was questioned if it is necessary- Roger E read what the funds are used for. It was suggested that we keep the funds locally instead. Bill moved to donate \$250 to BCHA, Andy seconded. Motion passed with two nays.

Treasurers report-Tim. V- balances were reported. They can be requested by members. Expenses were for hats and the deposit for the logging grounds for the auction.

Directors-

Youth program: Joe R- the board has been exploring ideas on increasing youth participation in WBCH. The BCHW website (state website) has a full youth program already planned (it is under Junior BCHW) We need to find experienced people to head this up. Kathy I. described Traildusters youth program, one person headed it up. At another chapter Jerry P. brought a pony and cart to a junior meeting and taught the kids to drive. Whatcom BCH has a good relationship with 4-H through the Herman Miller 4-h park. We have packed gravel into their trail system. We have members with kids, need to reach out to them.

Password: the state website is open to the public except for one secure site which requires a password. The password has been emailed to members.

Rendezvous: Joe R- Rendezvous went great, well attended. There were several programs. The tack sale went well, sold over 30 saddles. Left-overs from the auction went to another non-profit. Rendezvous always needs more help, plan on it next year.

Trail committee: The Spring Ride is this Saturday. A ride will be led out at 9:30. The trail will be marked. Potluck will be at noon. Cindy will bring paperwork for sign-in. Andy, Melinda, and Sage will tag on Friday.

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WBCH General Meeting minutes April 12, 2023 Laurel Grange

Sharon suggested that on future rides we have a shorter kids ride in addition to the main ride, maybe even a lead line ride.

Volunteer hrs.: Verna- we had 434 hrs. in March

Auction: Melinda- the Auction is Sat May 13. Silent auction is from 5:30 to 7pm. The live auction starts at 7:15. Cicchitti's food truck will be available. Deadline for value letters/donation-April 22. Donations can be dropped off at Nancy's starting April 24-May 5. (Call ahead) Tagging is May 6th. We need volunteers for auction night, also more baked goods. Joe pointed out the next day is Mother's Day- baked goods are a good gift. The hot spot doesn't work at the grounds so we will be using Wi-Fi for credit card transactions.

New Business

Driving Event at Sunset Farm: Roger E, - the Whatcom driving group will be holding a driving event on 4/16. Gambler's choice is 6-8 obstacles with just 2 min to complete the course. Rain will cancel.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Submitted Sharon Hoofnagle secretary.

Check out our Website:

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



Whatcom
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

EQUIPMENT SHARE PROGRAM

NO-TILL SEED DRILL

\$80/4 Days
\$50 Delivery

MANURE SPREADER

\$75/4 Days
Free Delivery

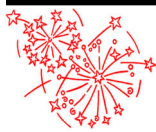
POULTRY PROCESSING

\$25/Day
\$50/Weekend



WWW.WHATCOMCD.ORG/EQUIPMENT-SHARE-PROGRAM





CALENDAR



May 1, 2023----**board meeting** at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr. Bellingham, dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm and also by zoom

May 10 2023-----**general meeting** at Laurel Community Hall, 6172 Guide Meridian, social hour 6:30pm, meeting 7pm---8:30pm. Guest speaker: Roger E. on his Scotland trip to the World Clydesdale Show.

May 13 2023-----**Auction at Deming Logging Show. See flyer**

March 2023 volunteer hours:

Basic--21, Skilled-- 227, LNT.edu-- 27.5, Admin--90.5, travel--68, for a total of 434 hours

Andy McLeod

Bill McKenna

Bob Rathjen

Cathy Rathjen

Cindy Piccolo

Fran Van Diest

Joe Remenar

Letitia Wheeler

Melinda Smull

Michelle McKenna

Robbie Harris

Rocky Leavitt

Roger Edmonds

Sharon Hoofnagle

Tara Wigg

Tim Van Beek

Tom Wigg

Verna McLeod

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.

TRAIL HORSE WANTED:

mid teens, gelding, 15-15.3 hands high for intermediate rider. Forever home for the right horse.

verna@soundengineering.com Verna

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

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!



THE WHATCOM CHAPTER OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN of WA.

**INVITES YOU TO OUR 24th
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AUCTION**

Saturday, May 13, 2023

**Deming Logging Show
3295 Cedarville Rd.
Bellingham.**

5:30-7:00pm--Silent Auction

**7:15pm--Live Auction starts
Cicchitti's Food truck available**



Packing in for PNTA at Pasayten August 2022

Backcountry Horsemen have been teaching our Leave No Trace Principles by example while helping to maintain thousands of miles of multi-use trails. Your local Whatcom Country Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen works with:

- City and County Parks Departments
- Dept of Natural Resources
- US Forest Service
- Pacific NW Trails Association
- Washington Trails Association

to protect Multi-User Trailheads and trail facilities in remote areas of our region.

Volunteer members ride and pack in supplies by horseback on maintenance projects to benefit many users.

Funds raised buy equipment and supplies to help preserve our right to ride and access public lands for future generations. As a local non profit organization, we rely on community support of our efforts on behalf of all trail users, including riders, bikers, runners, walkers, and naturalists.



Pasayten Aug'22

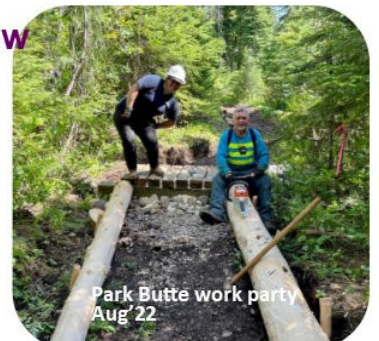
Join us at our fun Auction, May 13, 2023 at Deming Logging Show



(Cash, Check and Credit Card)

For more information or to donate contact:

**Melinda Smull at 360-595-2137
Sam Miller at 360-325-2833 or
Nancy Giordano at 360-961-0822**



Park Butte work party
Aug 22



Spring Ride at Bryce Creek horse camp on April 15, 2023 pictures.



NWTS
NW Tractor Services, LLC

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



Doug Bajema
Owner



360-815-0362

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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

Classifieds.....\$3.00 per month

Support our advertisers!

More pictures of the Spring Ride at Bryce Creek horse camp on April 15, 2023



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:

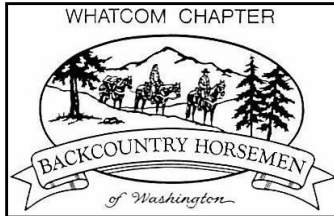
Date

Signature:

Date

Signature:

Date



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



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting:
General Meeting:
May 10, 2023

Laurel Community Grange
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden

6:30pm--social, 7pm--8:30pm--meeting

