



TRAIL TALES

October 2023

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.

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2023

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VET NOTES

Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M.

Down Horse

“Doc, I got a horse down”. It’s an all-too-common message for a veterinarian and is always a major concern. Horses are prey animals. Their survival in the wild depends on their escape from predators.

Here are some recommendations for dealing with a down horse.

Safety first: Get help and keep safe. A horse may be panic driven to get to their feet. Always approach from the back of the horse. Stay away from the legs and from directly in front of the horse. Some horses will violently paddle their legs when ill. Evaluate the surroundings. Is there unsafe fencing, a pond, cliff, etc. that they may stagger into or over once up?

Evaluate: Is the horse alert and comfortable? Does he appear ill? Is he trying to get up? Is he down because of mechanical reasons? Is he stuck? For example, against a stall wall, on ice, in mud. How long does it appear the horse has been down?

Try offering feed. If he will eat he is less likely to be sick or injured.

Take the pulse and respirations if you can. Remember the football yell, 2,4,6,8 - who do we appreciate. Respirations under 20, heart rate under 40 are ok, anything over 60 is a serious problem. You can take respirations from a distance. If the horse is alert and comfortable encourage him to get up. Otherwise call your veterinarian. Your vet may need to triage if it’s a busy day. If you’re lucky they may be 2 minutes away. But they may be headed for Lummi Island.

Often old horses can’t get up. It may be due to arthritic legs or lack of strength. They may lie down to sleep and lose body heat through the cold ground. Often rolling the old horse on to their other side is all that is needed. Wrap a soft rope at least 15 ft long around the pasterns of the down-legs. Roll them over. Stay clear of the legs, and don’t get in front of the horse. Most will try immediately to get up. A veterinarian can prescribe treatments, different feeds, medications, dentistry, to help your horse deal with golden years. Sometimes something as simple as a blanket works wonder.

A colicky or myopathy horse will usually get up but may immediately go back down. When a downed horse gets to their feet they may fall again or stagger. Stay away from them. You can’t hold them up, they will usually gain stability by themselves.

If you need to move a down horse don’t drag them by a halter rope. Use a “forward assist” Drape a long rope or webbing over the back behind the withers. Bring each end between the front legs. Pulling the rope engages the withers, rib cage, and front legs. A rear assist goes over the back and between the rear legs. This should ideally be done by a veterinarian or a rescue team, however sometimes the horse must be moved immediately, for example out of an icy pond or a dangerous situation. You can get instructions online.

(Continue on page 2)

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VET NOTES Sharon Hoofnagle D.V.M. Down Horse

Vet assistance should be sought if the horse is not up immediately. Secondary issues occur within minutes to a few hours. Muscles, lungs, and gastro-intestinal and cardio-vascular systems are rapidly affected.

So how long will the normal horse remain lying down? Although they can sleep lightly standing up, they need deep sleep between 30 min to 3 hours per day. Most of this is after midnight and can be in short 20-minute segments. But on warm days, with a soft bed available, horses may sleep and rest for extended periods.

.Star’s person noticed her quietly sleeping in the corral one morning. A few hours later the mare had not moved. They called for help. We found the mare had rolled near the fence and managed to get all four legs stuck under it. She never struggled so her person assumed she was hurt, but she was ok. Star could see the human in the house and was waiting for them to rescue her. We used a fore-hind rotating technique. Even a strong group will have trouble dragging a 1000 lb. horse in one direction. Two of us alternated rotating the fore quarters and then the hindquarters and easily got her out. It is common for horses to wait quietly for rescue if they are not hurt or ill.

But after she was on her feet Star did give us “it’s about time” glare.

**2023
TRAIL BOSSES**

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

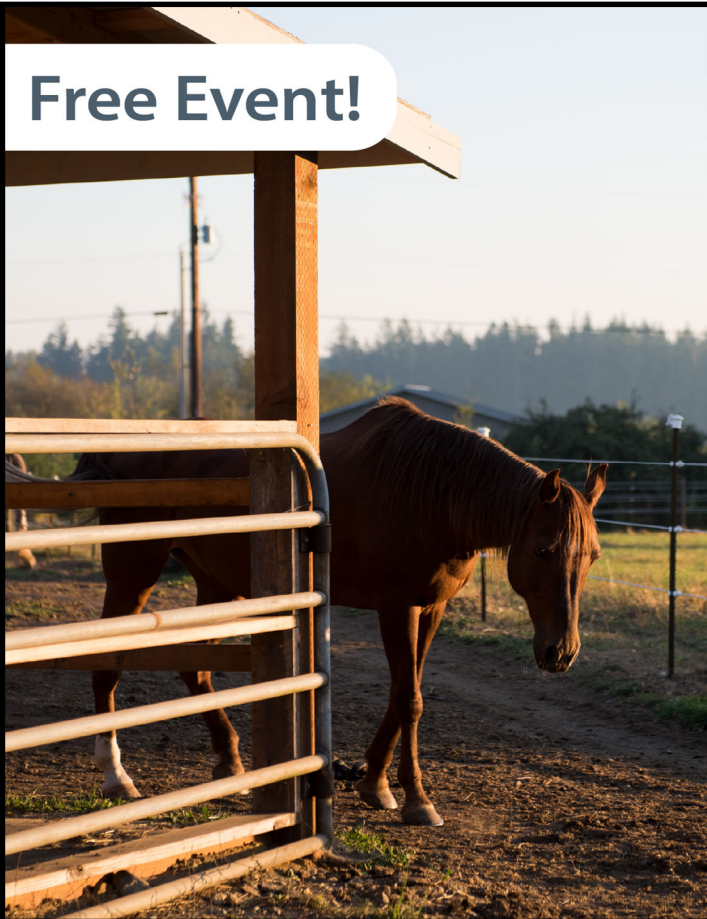
Andy McLeod
360-595-2744

**WORK PARTY
COORDINATOR**

Roger Nelson
360-927-6964

**PACKING
COORDINATOR**

Rocky Leavitt
360-599-2675



**FARM SPEAKER
SERIES**

**Winter Readiness Best
Management Practices in Action**

Thursday, October 19, 2023
5:30-7:00 PM

Join us, in Custer on October 19th for the final event of our 2023 Farm Speaker Series, Winter Readiness Best Management Practices in Action! This farm tour will include soil health demonstrations, pasture seeding and then Roger Edmonds will talk about his strategies for reducing mud, track paddocks, and more! Refreshments will be provided.



RSVP:
Corina Cheever
ccheever@whatcomcd.org
(360) 526-2371
www.whatcomcd.org/farm-speaker-series



WBCH General Meeting Sept 13 2023

The meeting was held at Misty River Ranch. It was preceded by a potluck at 6pm and a speaker at 7 pm. Guest speaker Molly McDaniel presented a mini clinic on how to teach your horse to come to you.

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by Roger E. The Pledge of Allegiance was said:

Sunshine: send requests to Michelle M., she will send out a card. We have a policy of not putting names in the newsletter unless it is ok'd by the persons named.

Requests:

general meeting location: Following was discussed by the board: should we change the winter meeting location from the grange to the Deming Library.

(Factors below researched by S.H)

grange- cons: set up for PowerPoint is poor. Their monitor is too small. pros: Hours, location, and parking is great.

Deming library: cons: closes at 8 pm, we would have to wind up the meeting at 7:45. Limited parking (keep in mind the library is open those hours). pros: Set up for presentations is good but still a little small. Screen size is 91" diagonal. The room is limited to 58. (Library provided info)

General meeting discussion: the grange is \$200/ year, (Correction by Fran- grange is \$350/ year). The library is free but time and parking not adequate. Bill suggested we purchase a larger monitor and store it at the grange. Jack C. suggested a school- they rent areas and have av equipment. Cindy moved that we keep the meetings at the grange for the rest of 2023, Sharon seconded. Motion passed unanimously. We will have a committee to research buying a monitor. Verna volunteered; Sharon will help.

salmon ride report: Bill or Cindy- the budget for the ride has been approved, the salmon has been purchased, price may have included a cook. We will have \$500 worth of prizes to give out. First rider out at 9: 30. We need volunteers to clear the trails before the ride. We need volunteers at the check-points, and to ride sweep for the end of the ride. It is not a potluck; it is a prize ride. It's Sept 30 at Bryce Creek.

Reports:

Financial officer: Tim V. via Cindy P- bank balances were given. Current expenditures were: \$ 322.02 for Rocky for Pasayten expenses and \$280 for the salmon. Income was \$135 for calendars.

Director/Legislative: Bill M. the quarterly board meeting will be in Ellensburg this coming Saturday. Joe and Bill are going. The wine ride is coming up on Halloween weekend, they need volunteers. (Oct 27.28.29th)

Work Coordinator: Roger Nelson: a work party is planned for Sept 21 at 9am to spread bark at Vedder. Bill and Mike will have tractors there. We need rakes and shovels. The bark has been paid for. There will be another work party to clear trail for the salmon ride.

Tables: (new concrete tables) we may not need to move them.

Volunteer hrs.- Verna- we had 681.5 hrs. last month

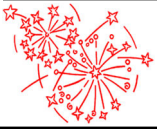
Y Rd (now Olsen Creek): Sharon -the new trail is being built on the north side of Olsen Creek. So far it is awesome. A lot of it follows the old trail footprint. The seepage area and creek crossings have been turnpiked. The grade has been decreased for much of it and re-routed from danger areas. It will be more rideable for a wider range of riders. Right now, there is no signage and the bike trail is not completed. It should be completed in a few weeks. All users can go up one trail. The bikes will have their own trail down.

Good of the Order: Bill M. the 4-H has reached out to us about Herman Miller 4 H park. We may be able to hold summer meetings there.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 Sharon Hoofnagle secretary

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.



CALENDAR



Sept 30, 2023—**Fall Ride at Bryce Creek horse camp, heady trails.**

Oct 2, 2023—**board meeting** at Roundtable Pizza on Sunset Dr. Bellingham, dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm--8:30pm and also by zoom

Oct 11, 2023—**general meeting**, we will be having a potluck/meeting at Laurel Grange, social at 6:30pm and meeting at 7pm.

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](#)

Oct 30, 2023—board meeting at Roundtable pizza—dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm

2023 COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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360-599-2526

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Sunshine
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Verna McLeod
360-595-2744

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



FOR SALE

I am selling my registered paint gelding. Milo. Trail horse. 18 years old. Lots of miles. Approx 15 hands. \$4500.
Don Pullar
donpullar@gmail.com>



Pioneer camp pack in on August 30, 2023.

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.

Volunteer hours for August 2023—
Basic—30, skilled—386.5 , LNT—
21 , Admin---62.5 , travel--181.5
for a total of 681.5

- Andy McLeod
- Angela Ellis - nm
- Bill McKenna
- Bob Rathjen
- Brenna Kentch - nm
- Carol Ketchum
- Cathy Rathjen
- Charlise ? - nm
- Cheeta Stremler
- Cindy Piccolo
- Collette Cloutier
- Dennis Mauler
- Diane Kimker
- Evelyn Tucker - nm
- Fran Van Diest
- Harold Wiese
- Jack Carr
- Jerry Pearson
- Joe Remenar
- Judy Tate -
- Kathy Adams
- Keith Earnst - nm
- Laura Evans - nm
- Laurie Swartwood
- Letitia Wheeler-nm
- Maddie Pittman -nm-ch
- Marie Tiemersma
- Melinda Smull
- Michelle McKenna
- Nancy Giordano
- Rocky Leavitt
- Roger Edmonds
- Roger Nelson
- Ryan Heacock
- Shannon ? - nm
- Shannon's partner ? - nm
- Sharon Hoofnagle
- Shirley Todhunter
- Skylar Torres
- Soren Stremler
- Terri Booth
- Tim Van Beek
- Tricia Morones
- Verna McLeod
- Vince Stremler



Molly McDaniel at the general meeting on September 13th at Misty River Ranch, demonstrating how to get your horse to come to you.



Mike M Glenn and Bill McKenna brought their small tractors to Vedder parking lot September 21th. Helping to spread the bark were Michele McKenna, Joe Remenar, and Rocky Leavitt.

They spent nearly three hours putting the bark around the trees and rocks. Not quite enough bark but we got most of it. Take a look, it looks great.

Support our advertisers!



Membership for 2024

You can renew your membership for 2024 now! Complete the enclosed form or go online at BCHW.org
<https://form.jotform.com/231627363308152>

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.

Check out our Website:

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



NON AFFILIATION MEMBERSHIP 42023

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.

Mail to:

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



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: _____

BCHW Newsletters: Two Trailhead Newsletters will be mailed out per year, the other 4 are digital.
All 6 newsletters are viewable online at BCHW.org Our Turnpike emailed newsletters go out 6 times a year.

STATE MEMBERSHIP			CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP	
Basic Memberships			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.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$41.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$54.00	Chapter Name: <p style="text-align: center;">Whatcom Co.</p> If joining a secondary Chapter, provide the Chapter name where BCHW State dues were paid:	
Levels below include Single and Family				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contributing	\$75.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining	\$125.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$250.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactor	\$500.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime (Single)	\$1200.00		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2000.00		
<i>Please consider making a State donation:</i>		\$	<i>Chapter Dues</i>	\$10.00
<i>State Subtotal</i>		\$	<i>Chapter Subtotal</i>	\$
<i>State Subtotal</i>			Grand Total (State+Chapter)	
<i>State Subtotal</i>		\$	\$	

NOTICES

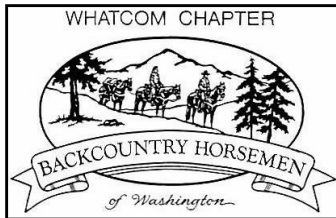
By signing this membership application, you will agree to the terms of our Liability Release. You can read it on our website at bchw.org, under the Join tab. You also agree to receive notices from BCHW/BCHA by electronic transmission at the above email address.

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.bchw.org>



Next
Whatcom Chapter Backcountry Horsemen

Meeting:
General Meeting:

October 11, 2023

**Laurel Grange Hall,
6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden WA 97264**

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

