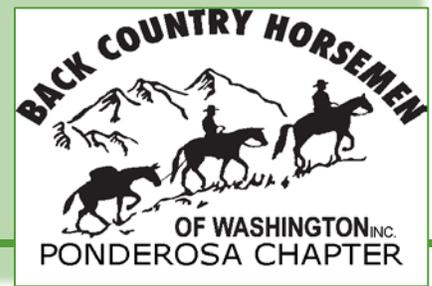


P O N D E R O S A

Back Country Horsemen of Washington



"Keeping Washington Trails Open"

January 2016

CALENDAR

February 2

Membership Meeting

6:30 pm

Quality Inn, North Division

January 23

"Back Country Horsemen Day"

Tack Trunk Store

11 am to 1 pm

E Trent, Spokane Valley

February 20

First Aid Training

12 Noon to 4 pm

Spokane Valley, WA



Chartered December 5, 2015

From The President's Saddle

By Dean Giles



Greetings to all, and best wishes for an exceptional 2016!

As my first article for our new Chapter, I wanted to bring up ideas and topics that are important to all of us. I started by making a list of general activities, and realized pretty quickly that I needed to narrow my focus. There are so many relevant issues that deserve attention that it's hard to know where to start. With that said, I'll start at the beginning, with the basics.

Why are we doing this? Why not just enjoy our horses & mules, and ride the trails? Why spend precious free time on activities like work parties, calling legislators' offices, and making relationships with public land managers? Why document and report all this stuff? After all, it can be hard work; on days off, more work is one of the last things I want to take on.





The answer is simple- somebody has to, or a way of life could go away. I don't think there will be any drastic actions like banning horses from national parks. What I expect is small actions like closing certain trails, restrictions on certain activities, or legislative changes to funding of State programs that affect citizen access to public lands. Adding these up, we could find ourselves unable to ride in areas that have historically been open for stock use. We need to stay alert and work to resolve issues in a way that maintains our access.

To start with, I am grateful that there is public land available for our use. This is a good thing, as Martha Stewart would say. However, our actions can affect how much of this land will stay open.

As the doctors say, first do no harm. Let's clean up after ourselves so we aren't seen in a bad light, and encourage others to do the same.

Second, we can make things better. Let's help maintain trails and even build new ones. Left alone, the forest will reclaim trails, and bridges will deteriorate.

Third, we can educate others, and learn more ourselves. Let's do some events so others understand our concerns a bit better. Let's do some training so we ourselves know more.

Last, we can leverage our efforts and be a voice that gets attention. Let's keep track of the hours spent and the miles driven, and use this as proof that people care.

I'm a tourist on horseback. I like riding my horse much more than hiking. There is something very basic and rewarding about riding outside of an arena. Taking in ever-changing mountain scenery, hearing the sound of hoof beats in an otherwise silent morning, the creak of saddle leather, the smell of warm horse and pine on a summer day; these are things that sing to me. I want to be doing this for a long time, and hope that others in the future can have the same experience. We can help make that happen.

Let's Enjoy the Ride!

Dean



I will actively try to broaden my knowledge base as well as share my knowledge of horsemanship with other riders. Winter is the perfect time to attend equine expos and other learning events to brush up on trail skills and more. –Robert Eversole, The Trailmeister



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

2016 Rendezvous “Back to Basics”

Friday thru Sunday, March 18—20
Kittitas Valley Event Center
Ellensburg, WA

Entry to the event is free
To register for Saturday dinner and/or camping
go to www.BCHW.org

Wilderness Stewardship Revision Mt Rainier National Park

See the article in the last Trailhead News The process is going to be reviewed. It may be possible to ride trails in Mt Rainier National Park. You can help by participating in the process. Get involved if this interests you.

Go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/morawild>. Tell the National Park system we want to partner with the NPS and other user groups to maintain Mt Rainier NP, and we would like to have more opportunities to recreate with our stock.

LEAVE NO TRACE BASIC SKILLS CLASS

Saturday-Sunday, April 2 & 3, 2016

USFS Cowlitz Ranger District, Randle, WA

Doc Wesselius 360-736-6106

STATE WORK PARTY 2016

This year's work party will be at the Twisp River Horse Camp, hosted by the Methow Chapter. Dates are June 30 through July 4, 2016. Work will be around camp and adjacent trails. Set-up is on the 29th. Meals will be available from the 30th to the 4th. On the 5th there will be breakfast available before departure. These state work parties are a lot of fun. This is an opportunity to explore a new area and make new friends.

2016 BCHW OFFICERS

Kathy Young, President
Dave Sunde, Vice President
Janelle Wilson, Secretary
Teri Starke, Treasurer
Trygve Culp, Immediate Past President
Jason Ridlon, BCHA Director
Darrell Wallace, BCHA Director
Ken Carmichael, BCHA Alternate Director



Cindy Miller

WANTED PUBLICITY PERSON!

PBCH Needs You!

Work with retailers, advertisers, potential sponsors, media, and PBCH committee members to assist with marketing, advertising and assisting in promoting the BCH Mission and Ponderosa Chapter.

Please contact Dean Giles or Ken Carmichael if you'd like to participate in this important service to your Chapter

THANK YOU

To all our Members who dedicate time and energy into making PBCH what it is!

We appreciate your sacrifice

2016 Is Going to be a Great Year!

WHAT'S COOK'IN Dutch Oven Breakfast

Ingredients:

Corn bread ingredients from your favorite recipe
2# Sausage (plus 3 Tbs. olive oil if sausage is lean)

1 medium to large onion

1/2 # mushrooms (optional)

2 cans whole berry cranberries

In a mixing bowl, mix your favorite cornbread recipe.

Heat a medium to large Dutch oven over the fire. Add sausage and onion (and oil, if needed) and brown. Add mushrooms and continue cooking for a couple minutes.

Spoon cranberries over the sausage mixture. Move to low fire area. Layer the cornbread mixture over the top, smoothing the surface. Cover oven with lid.

Check when you smell the cornbread. Test for doneness. A straw or dry pine needle should come out dry if inserted into the cornbread layer when it is thoroughly cooked).

Serve with scrambled eggs and cowboy coffee!

Submitted by

Cindy Miller

PONDEROSA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean Giles, President

Patti Sander, Secretary

Celeste Eversole, Treasurer

Ken Carmichael, Director

BCHW Leadership Training

By Ken Carmichael

Each year BCHW conducts a leadership training class for chapter members. While there are classes on specific topics presented, it is a good program for all chapter members who are interested in learning more about BCHW and the operation of the chapters.

Ponderosa chapter was well represented at the training in Moses Lake on January 9, 2016. We had 8 members there, more than any other chapter. This shows a real commitment from our members about moving the chapter forward. Members attending included **Dean Giles, Bob Olson, Doug Bailey, Robert Eversole, Celeste Eversole, Patti Sander, Jose' Bruce and Ken Carmichael**. With this number of members we were able to have active participation in all of the classes which included:

Directors and Presidents

Treasurers and Membership

Grant Planning

Leave No Trace

Volunteer Hours

Trail Work Bosses

Trail Ride Bosses

The classes provided an excellent opportunity for members to hear from BCHW leaders so that our responsibilities run smoothly. In addition, representatives from the chapters had an opportunity to provide input and learn from other chapters.

Since BCHW is a 501C3 nonprofit and all chapters are in the same corporation it is essential that we are all on the same page when performing many of our responsibilities. This is especially true when taking actions that affect our 501C3 status and accounting procedures. Only through good communications can we accomplish this.

Besides the class time there were opportunities for us to get acquainted. The Crab Creek Riders (Moses Lake chapter) put on a real good lunch.

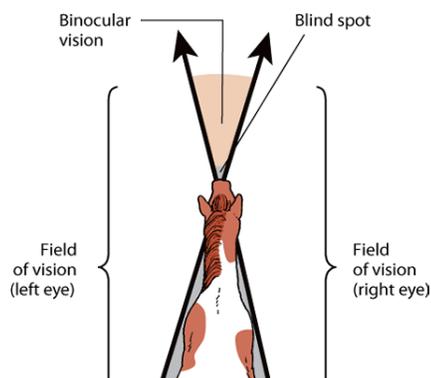
I want to thank all the chapter members that took the time to attend the training and all the BCHW leaders who put on the program. A second session is being held in North Bend on January 23rd for the chapters on the west side of the state.

HORSE KEEPING

THE AMAZING EQUINE EYE

Here are some fun facts regarding equine eyes:

- Horses have the largest globe of all land mammals.
- Horse's eyes magnify images 50% larger than the human eye does.
- The far lateral position of the eye on the outside of the skull, the rather bug-eyed conformation and the horizontal orientation of the pupil give the horse a wide monocular (two-dimensional) field of vision (each eye can see 195 degrees from side to side and 175 degrees from top to bottom).
- Binocular vision (i.e. three-dimensional) is the area of overlap in the field of vision of both eyes and it is 65 degrees.
- Total horizontal field of vision is 350 degrees.
- Horses have a blind spot directly in front of their muzzle and another several feet behind their rump.
- Horses blink 5 to 25 times every minute.
- Horses have some color vision—they see yellows, blues and greens, but do not see red shades well.



WHEN BLANKETING IS BEST

With colder winter upon us, should you be worried about whether your horse is warm enough? Most horses can grow a winter coat thick enough to remain comfortable in freezing temperatures. There are two situations, however, when you need to treat them to added warmth.

- Horses who have trouble maintaining weight. A cold horse will burn calories to keep warm and, if he's not getting enough from his diet, his body will pull from his fat stores to meet the need. A horse who is already on the thin side or one who has a history of losing weight during the cold months is likely to be better off with a blanket.
- Horses who will be clipped. Anytime you remove a horse's natural protection from the elements, you need to replace it with a blanket. A horse with a low trace clip, which leaves a full coat on the hindquarters, back neck and most of the loins, may be fine uncovered, especially in more temperate climates. But if you remove much more of your horse's winter coat, be prepared to blanket throughout the season.

--Reproduced from EQUUS Magazine



OUR FAVORITE TRAILS

MICA PEAK CONSERVATION AREA TRAIL RIDE

By Cindy Miller

One of the last trail rides for me in 2015 was traveling to Mica Peak. This was new country for me, and the drive up to the Peak was beautiful where the landscape included wheat fields, farm land, cool barns, and deciduous trees with vivid fall colors.

Once there, we took off straight ahead. We to the top where there is a gradual elevated of your horses, if they down, we decided to I was in the lead by 20 Tanner (the horse) and I encounter a giant bull



on the logging road, stayed on this one road was a fantastic view. It incline so be thoughtful aren't in shape. Coming take a side trail, where yards. This meant were the first to moose lying in the soft

branches. This bull moose stood up, shook his head, and Tanner, the horse, lost his nerve and I lost my hat, but we came out of it okay! It was a great day though, and I'll be going back again after I have knowledge of more the trail system there.



I hope you all enjoyed the first edition of the Ponderosa Newsletter. I invite you all to send me your stories, tips, jokes, articles, photos, words of wisdom or whatever. I especially would like to encourage our officers and committee chairs to share their thoughts, visions and projects. The goal here is to make the newsletter fun, entertaining and informative.

Patti Sander, Editor