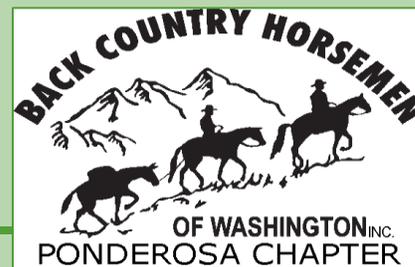


PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington



“Keeping Washington Trails Open”

March 2016

CALENDAR

April 1
BLM Ride
Fishtrap

April 5
Membership Meeting
INB Bank Building
Airway Heights
6:30 pm

April 15-17
Chapter Ride
Juniper Dunes

April 19-23
BCHA Board Meeting
Las Vegas

April 29-May 1
Chapter Ride
Escure Ranch

May 8
Horse Sale
Chapter Fundraiser
Riverside Equestrian Area
9 am

May 14
BCHW Poker Ride
Joe Watt Canyon
Ellensburg WA

May 20-22
BCHW Annual Social
Ride and Fellowship
BBQ Flats
Selah, WA



From The President's Saddle

By Dean Giles



My horse has beautiful ears. They are mostly a tan color, but have a black line bordering the top edge. There are champagne highlights that catch the sun and sparkle; I'm not sure if they are transparent hairs or just very smooth and clean. The hair at the very end of the ears grows into a point, and works like a direction finder when the ears swivel.

I am pretty familiar with his ears because I watch them a lot. Horses have very good hearing; it is a survival trait for prey animals. I know that when the ears turn there is something he has tuned into- something I may have missed. When his nose turns in the same direction he is bringing his eyes into binocular focus- at this point I pay more attention as well.

By comparison, I know my hearing is somewhat challenged. The basic senses are adequate in humans, but we have the advantage of higher level thinking. We can choose what to pay attention to and how much time to spend on it. So when I hear about something happening, I often acknowledge it then put it onto the back burner. My ear returns to normal. If I hear about it a second or third time, I will turn my focus onto it. It is probably something I should pay attention to.

Just like horses, we have a built-in threat meter. Unlike horses, we extend our concerns beyond our personal safety to that of other people, other groups, even our things and abstract stuff like our lifestyles. Even to the idea of riding our horses into the backcountry.

Recently, I have had my ears swivel toward several different things; legislation, weed free hay, first aid scenarios, etc. A few times, I even turned to look.

Horses have amazingly fast reflexes and can turn and run in a split second (as I well know- I think the ground is harder than it used to be). This has allowed the species to survive predators. On the other hand, humans *are* predator animals; we can choose to run or turn and face the threat. Running gets a person away from a situation, but does nothing to reduce the threat to the other concerns. Only by facing it down can we make the threat go away.

So, when you hear something, put an ear on it. Listen a little longer to see if it repeats. Take a look if necessary, to see if it is a threat. And keep those ears swiveling.

JOHN WAYNE PIONEER TRAIL Aka Ironhorse State Park

By Patti Sander

Ken Carmichael, Patti Sander, Don Dyer and Doug Bailey attended a recent planning meeting for the future of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail.

State Parks has been leading the public process aimed at bringing together diverse groups of people to solve management issues for this historical trail. State Parks is confident that they can improve the knowledge of the legal and policy issues and come up with creative and positive solutions to the concerns raised.

This recent meeting addressed the first stage of the planning process which is identifying the issues. The State Parks representative gave a brief presentation on the history of the trail, concerns of the adjacent land owners, and potential improvements. Representatives from the community, recreational trail users, private land owners and local government were in attendance.

Attached to this newsletter is a write up from the State Parks outlining the planning process. I encourage all of you to read it and become familiar with the issue. This trail system goes smack dab through our area, we don't want to lose ground.

The next planning meeting is scheduled for some time in April. I'll send out an announcement when the date is known.



RENDEZVOUS 2016

by Patti Sander

Back Country Horsemen of Washington held the annual Rendezvous in Ellensburg on March 18-20. This year's theme was "Back to Basics". I have only had the pleasure of attending 3 Rendezvous in my brief BCH experience, but I must say this was probably the best.

People stayed busy moving between many areas of interest. The used tack sale, BCH store, visiting with the Leave no Trace team, the cross cut saw competition, and of course, the wonderful vendor booths. In the spirit of "Getting Back to Basics" there were packing demonstrations and a packing competition. I've never seen one before and it was very educational and entertaining. It was especially rewarding when a women won first place! BLM provided several "gently broke" mustangs for auction. The TIPs trainers presented demonstrations throughout the weekend. I was very impressed with the ground training techniques utilized, and plan to try some of them myself on my horse Scout. On Sunday all the mustangs departed to new homes with willing BCH members. Ken Carmichael attended Jason Ridlon's trailer clinic. This was a good discussion about trailer maintenance, highlighting things that owners can easily do themselves.

Ponderosa chapter had quite a presence. We hosted the "Ride our Part of the State" presentation. In addition to our chapter, there were five other chapters that participated. Washington provides some wonderful riding opportunities. I hope I can explore them all some day soon! We also set up our chapter display booth, participated in the photo contest, table decorating contest, and the Dutch oven competition.



The highlight of the event was the Saturday night dinner and auction followed by the movie "Unbranded". Ken Carmichael offered his talents as the Master of Ceremonies again this year. Our chapter donated a beautiful mule picture drawn by chapter member Karen Stevenson, and a hand painted saw donated by Patti Sander. Both items brought good prices at the Saturday action.

Congratulations to Doug Bailey for his award winning Dutch oven cooking! He presented one of his specialties, Tamale Pie, which some of us had the pleasure of sampling at the February chapter meeting. Yummy!



Our Chapter also won a blue ribbon for one of our photograph entries, winning in the category "Camp Life", a picture taken by Ken Carmichael during one of our rides as Escure.

I would encourage all of you who could not attend this year to plan for it next year. It really is a great way to see our BCH mission in action, learn something new, find that long lost "treasure", see what's happening with other chapters throughout the state, celebrate our accomplishments, network with other members, and HAVE FUN!

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

LEAVE NO TRACE BASIC SKILLS CLASS

Saturday-Sunday, April 2 & 3, 2016

USFS Cowlitz Ranger District, Randle, WA

Doc Wesselius 360-736-6106

wesselius@wildblue.net

May 14

*BCHW Poker Ride
Joe Watt Canyon
Ellensburg WA*

May 20-22

*BCHW Annual Social
Ride and Fellowship
Selah, WA*

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



TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING !

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

Teresa Bailey has joined the Education Committee and will be presenting the Membership Meeting programs!

Doug Bailey for all your work and planning for our upcoming work parties

Jose Bruce for your proven dedication to the volunteer hour program!

Robert Eversole for your willingness to help in our fundraising efforts

Cindy Miller for assisting in setting up our Facebook Page

Gary Miller for agreeing to be our Chapter Photographer

Craig Volosing for your efforts and planning with the local Land Owners

"The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team" Phil Jackson



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

P.S. Please send me photos of you and your equine buddy so I can highlight you in our newsletter!

PONDEROSA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean Giles, President
Patti Sander, Secretary
Celeste Eversole, Treasurer
Ken Carmichael, Director

HORSE KEEPING



FINDING A LOST HORSE

Hopefully you will never have to experience the emotional enjoy the back country may have crawled out of your ten wandered far afield. How about the “Houdini” horse that h they’d search for greener pastures? If you are a front count to end the ride early leaving you afoot?

Here are some tips to assist you in reuniting with your equine

1. **Be able to identify your horse.** This includes his nondescript, add some kind of identification; braid and/or attach a similar tag to the bridle or saddle. N customized at your local pet store. Horses can also b
2. **Ask for help.** Take photos of your horse every sumn for posting.

Post his description on social media. Fellow horse f help you in your search. Make up “Lost Horse” po Display the posters in your neighborhood, gas st: newspaper.

Notify the local law enforcement, ranger district, animal control organizations and the auction yards. You will want the auction staff watching for your horse so he doesn’t get sold to a kill buyer. Lastly, construction crews, loggers, road and trail crews working in the area should be questioned.

3. **Use technology.** NetPosse.com operates a nationwide alert system for lost and stolen horses. If the horse is in an open area, consider enlisting a local airplane, helicopter or drone pilot in the search.
4. **Keep the search organized.** Use brightly colored surveyor’s ribbon, notes staled to trees, or strips of cloth tied to branches to mark areas already searched. Enlist friends to help monitor text messages, emails and phone calls related to the search. If you are searching on horseback, mark the fresh manure from you mount with ribbons so that other searchers know the fresh manure is not from the lost horse.

Horses can cover a lot of territory and move fast. Consider where your horse will go and/or lure him to you. Here are some helpful equine behavior tips:

Horses usually head downhill and stay near food, water, or other horses. Keep his personality quirks in mind.

If your horse responds to a specific whistle or name, share this with other searchers. If he is food motivated take a “shaker” can full of grain with you.

Take his best buddy with you when you search. With luck, the buddy horse will holler and your horse will be within hearing range.



Jose Bruce

Volunteer Coordinator

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