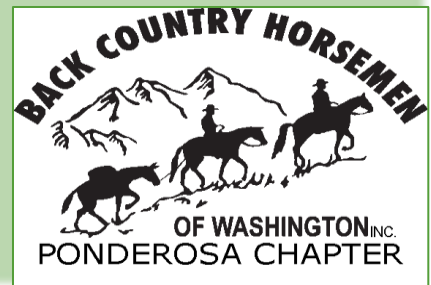


# PONDEROSA

*Back Country Horsemen of Washington*



*"Keeping Washington Trails Open"*

*July 2016*

## CALENDAR

August 2  
Membership Meeting  
Airway Heights  
INB Bank  
6:30 pm

August 27-28  
Carson James Clinic  
Riverside State Park  
NEED VOLUNTEERS!



## From The President's Saddle

By Dean Giles



**Community.** It is a simple word, and has different meanings for different people. For me, I always thought of "community" as the town I lived in (if I put any thought into it at all). Lately, though, it has taken on a different and much more profound meaning.

Last spring, I had hay delivered to my house. This was a pretty straightforward thing; the local farmer picked up hay from the field and drove the hay wagon to my house, dropping the hay in my driveway in front of my machine shed. I came home from work to find a large pile of bales that need to be stacked inside.

After changing clothes, I put on the gloves and got to work. After two evenings of work, I had all ten tons neatly stacked inside the machine shed. It was satisfying work, but wore me out.

Later that summer, I took in house guests; they arrived in a huge U-Haul van. I looked at the van, sighed, then went to get my gloves to help start moving items into the house. My guests looked at me kind of funny, and told me to wait a few minutes. Shortly, cars started pulling into the driveway; soon there were 15 people hauling items inside. It was all done within one hour.

I learned a good lesson from that. Since then, I have been less shy about asking for help- this year I had two strong high school kids and a hay elevator to help with the hay. It's amazing how fast and less painful that was compared to the previous year.

Community. To me, is now, the group of people with whom I share interests. It is the co-workers, the riding partners, the amazing people that help with all things horse (farrier, veterinarian, hay farmer, high school kids...). It is the people who care about the future of horse riding, the backcountry riders and the leave no trace educators. It is the neighbor who horse sits while I am out of town. It is the motivated people that share important info about legislation, or trail maintenance, or County Parks land use meetings. It is the good people that I am proud to call friends.

We all share an interest in horses, in trail riding and maintenance, and in learning/educating. Our PBCHW community is oriented toward accomplishing the goals of the Chapter. This is a shared undertaking, and is better accomplished when many hands are helping. So... talk with your horse riding friends, your neighbors, your amazing group of horse people. We have a simple but profound goal and message, and others may be more than willing to pitch in for such a worthwhile cause. It is really about community.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Scavenger Hunt Update

By Ken Carmichael

This event is moving so fast it is hard to keep up with what is happening. Some of the key areas:

- Prizes – We now have OVER \$1,600 in prizes for the ride. This is due almost entirely through the efforts of **Linda White**.
- Chili Feed – **Doug Bailey** has the menu set.
- Contests – Besides the scavenger hunt we will have door prizes, raffles, crazy hat contest and a guess the number of items in the jar.
- Advertising – We are on Facebook, websites, Trailhead News, Visit Spokane, direct mail, many email lists, Horse Previews and Exchange. Hank FM radio will have their trailer at the event and do radio advertising.
- Planning – We have equipment lists, volunteer lists started, coordination with state parks and permits in place.

What can you do?

- **Volunteers the day of the event** – What do you want to do? Parking, registration, PBCH booth, crazy hat contest, chili feed, door prizes and raffles. Also would like about three people out on the trail on horseback.
- **Help NOW** - Do you know someone, a friend or someplace you shop, that would like to donate to the *door prizes or raffles*? It does not have to be horse related. Please make the contact. If you think we may have made the contact then please call Linda White or myself. Do you know someone that can help us *promote the event*? We can help you provide the necessary information. And last but not least mention the event on *your Facebook*. This is a great tool but we need everyone using it.
- **Friday before the event** – We will be setting up equipment and putting out 40 scavenger hunt items. We will need help.

**On Tuesday, September 20 we will have an evening meeting at the equestrian area to do a dress rehearsal for the event. Everyone should be there. This is what makes the event run smoothly.**

This will be a great event but as we draw closer to September 24 we need more and more help. Please mark your calendars for the dates mentioned above and plan on helping then and NOW.

## New Members to PBCH

By Ken Carmichael

Since our last newsletter we have 4 new members in the Ponderosa BCH.

Doug and Traci Stewart joined after attending the Horse and Equipment Sale. Doug has a pack horse and is interested in trail work. They live near Deer Park.

Don Groshon also attended the Horse and Equipment Sale. He is retired from the airport and lives on Hayford Road west of Spokane. Don came over to ride one evening and we gave him a tour of our part of Riverside State Park.

Linda White is already working hard for the chapter gathering raffle and door prize items for the Fall Fun Ride and Scavenger Hunt. Linda lives near Medical Lake.

Be sure to take the time to introduce yourself at the August meeting. Or better yet, give them a call and invite them for a ride!

---

## Keeping Up To Date

By Ken Carmichael

Here are some things that have come across my desk lately.

**CARSON JAMES CLINIC, August 27-18** – Cindy Miller is working hard to make this a successful event. Volunteers will be needed on both days to help. This is a fund raiser for PBH so please plan to help out.

**FALL FUN RIDE AND SCAVENGER HUNT, September 24** – Publicity has gone out through Facebook, websites, direct mails, electronic databases, Visit Spokane, Trailhead News, Northwest Horse Source, Horse Previews and is scheduled for the Exchange. **Linda White** is doing a fantastic job of collecting great door prizes and raffle items. People are beginning to talk about the event. We still need your help getting the word out and gathering prizes. Plus help on September 24. **Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 20 for an “all hands on deck” dry run so we have a very smooth event.**

**BCHW Calendars** – PBCH purchased 10 calendars. These are a BCHW fundraiser to help support BCHW. They have beautiful pictures and are well worth the \$10.

**BCHW** – BCHW is looking for ideas for the Leadership Training and Rendezvous, both held in the spring. Help is always wanted. Read the BCHA and BCHW newsletters. Great information.

**Work Parties** – I attended an REI work party in Riverside State Park. Lots of fun with other groups. We need to clear some trails in Riverside prior to our Scavenger Hunt September 24. Mt. Spokane State Park is planning the Mountain Education & Recreation Center.

This will have a stadium area, expanded parking, biathlon course and large lodge. We were asked to provide input for equestrian use, including camping. We have a real opportunity here.

**BLM IS PLANNING A WORK PARTY AT FISH TRAP LAKE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1. THEY MOVED IT OFF SEPTEMBER 24 TO ACCOMMODATE PBCH SO LETS MAKE A GOOD SHOWING. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.**

**Website** – **Cindy Miller** will become our new webmaster. She and **Christine** (my daughter) are working on the project to transfer the information off Robert Eversole's server and continue the domain name.

**Mt. Spokane State Park road closure** – Remember the road into the park is closed for the summer for construction. We can park at Bear Creek Lodge across the road from the lodge building. Please do NOT cross the road with the horses. Go up Trail 120 to enter the park.

**Publicity** – Watch for information about PBCH in the Exchange, Horse Previews, Northwest Horse Source, Trailhead News, Facebook and Visit Spokane website. Our name is getting out there. What are you doing to promote PBCH? I hand people a PBCH business card when I meet them.

This article does not begin to scratch the surface of what we can and should be doing in PBCH but I hope it gives you some ideas.



\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW CHAPTER

By Ken Carmichael

Here I sit at the computer writing another article. Actually I just came in from working in the pasture then sitting in the backyard reading the Trailhead News.

It all just gets me thinking how darn excited I get about BCH and this whole idea of riding and keeping trails open. I do have an advantage in that I go to BCHA board

meetings, BCHW board meetings and several large events such as the BCHW rendezvous, BCHW wine ride, BCHW poker ride, and still I miss many events. In April Patti and I met up with local BCH members to ride the Juniper Dunes and White Bluffs near Richland. Then I sit down like today and read the national and state newsletters. I see what other BCH members are doing in their chapters and it just gets me excited.

This morning, before going outside, I looked at the items we could have discussed at a July meeting. I also played around with what a schedule of meetings and events could look like if we want to put forth the effort. None of it is brain surgery, just some work, but it can be fun.

We are a new chapter and can be anything we want to be. We have so much to offer. But what we will be depends on what we decide. It takes initiative and responsibility for the jobs we agree to do. But boy can it be worth it.

BCH provides the structure and organization for us to have fun and make a difference. What we do with this is up to us. Let's not waste it.



# RUSTLER'S GULCH TRAIL RIDE

By Cindy Miller

I ventured north of Spokane (something I hesitate to do), and rode Rustler's Gulch. This riding area has become a popular destination for equestrians. Thanks to navigational information offered by Robert Eversole's website, <https://www.trailmeister.com/trail/s/rustlers-gulch/>, it was an easy journey.



I joined a group of 12 for a relaxing, beautiful trip meandering through heavily forested areas of fir and pine trees, aspens, open meadows, marshes, and a near perfect water crossing for beginners. Horses were happy to cross and linger in the stream, enjoying a sparkling clear, cold drink of water. The trails were soft on the horses' feet, fairly level, and were mostly single file.