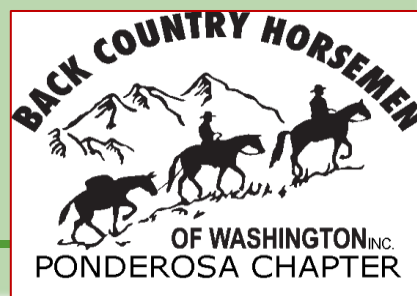


PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington



"Keeping Washington Trails Open"

December 2016

CALENDAR

**"Pray for Spring"
Fellowship
January 21, 2017**

**Leadership Training
Moses Lake
January 14, 2017**

**Leave No Trace Class
April 7-9, 2017
Riverside State Park**



YOUR 2017 PONEROSA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean Giles, President

Joyce Johnson, Treasurer

Ken Carmichael, State Director

Patti Sander, Secretary

Don Groshon, Membership Chair

Doug Bailey, Trail Boss

Jose Bruce, Volunteer Hours Coordinator

Patti Sander, Education Chairman

Cindy Miller, Webmaster & Facebook

Patti Sander, Newsletter Editor

Gary Miller, Photographer

REMINDER!!!!

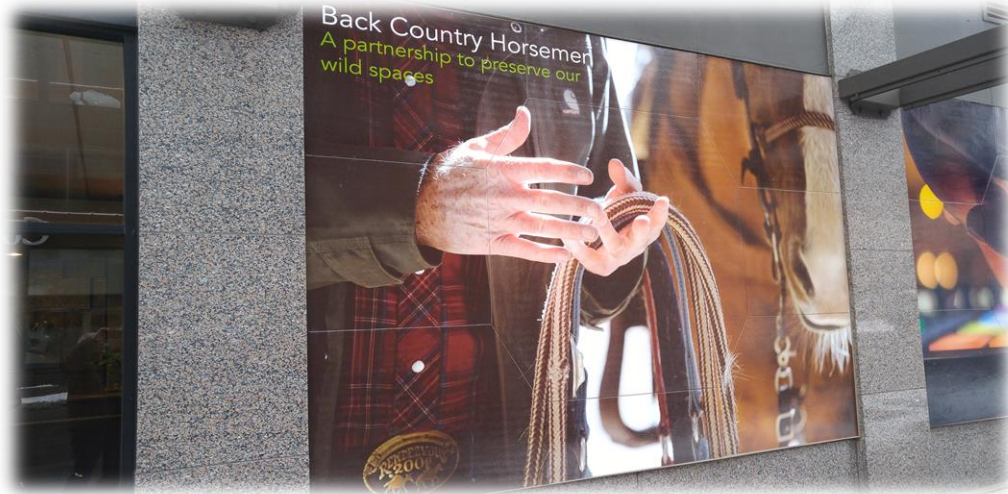
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE

**Don't miss out on all the
Fun being planned for 2017 !**

**Mail in your membership
application today!**

**For questions, Contact
Don Groshon, Membership Chair**

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN IS PICTURE PERFECT !!!



“A PARTNERSHIP TO PRESERVE OUR WILD SPACES”

This past week, Ponderosa received notice that our partners, Inland Northwest Bank, chose BCH as one of their community organizations to be displayed on the side of their bank building located at 421 W Riverside Ave, Spokane WA. The display is on the west side of the building that faces Stevens Street.

If you find yourself downtown, take a few minutes to stop by the Paulsen Building and have a look.





From The President's Saddle

By Dean Giles

Time is a funny thing. There is either too much or too little of it, and you can never tell in advance which way it is going to be. For example, in the summer months I spend most days dealing with small emergencies, and look forward to a leisurely horse ride after work. These days, though, it is dark and cold by the time I get home, feed the horses and myself, and get a few chores done.

The problem with an 8 to 5 job is that businesses are only open during the same hours. Consequently, Saturday is spent running errands, and doing home projects. Vacation time seems to be the only time available to get the larger projects done, like fencing, or one of many construction projects I have going around the house. So when do we fit in backcountry rides?

The answer is simple. We ride when we can, and when we can let something else slide. Anyone who has been to my home has probably noticed a multitude of half-finished projects. They will get done eventually, but riding has a higher priority. If we were to start letting housework get in our way, we'd never ride at all. Monty Roberts, in one of his training videos, said that when you give yourself 15 minutes to do something, it often takes all day. If you give yourself all day to do something, it can often take only 15 minutes. I try to schedule my life in 15 minute slots, but horses tend to have their own schedules. As a result, I have quite a few projects simmering on a back burner.

With all of this in mind, I took a look at my BCH calendar, to see what was coming up. Most events are okay to just show up for, but a few things need to have some prior planning. The major fundraisers need lots of people and time, but the rewards are huge ☺ Beyond the events already planned and done, there are others that have not been thought of yet! Some will take long term planning, others may be relatively simple, still others only need us to attend. There is a place for each. It's just a matter of how much time needs to be spent. The thing we need to be realistic about is how many hours we can put in with the number of members we have....

So, think of a creative way to be involved in a worthwhile cause! There is an unlimited number of ways a person can contribute to the BCH mission- think of what you like to do and see where it can fit in!

There aren't enough hours in a day or days in a week to do all the things I want to do, so it is a matter of choosing priorities. Seeing the Inland Northwest from atop a horse is near the top. I have a feeling I'm not alone.

BCHW LEADERSHIP TRAINING

By Ken Carmichael

BCHW Leadership Training is an opportunity for PBCH chapter members to meet with BCHW leadership and other chapters. It is a chance to network with other members about topics that interest you. Sharing of ideas and experiences is how we grow. Besides it is a good time.

The 2017 Leadership Training will be in Moses Lake, Saturday, January 14 at 8:30 am and run until mid-afternoon.

The event has something for everyone as we are broken out into groups with common interests, such as membership, treasurer, volunteer hours, directors, presidents, newsletter, secretary, grants and social media to name some. You do not need to be responsible for these areas in the chapter, just interested in how we can make it work for PBCH.

I encourage everyone in the chapter to attend.

We can carpool to get there. But I need to know who is coming. PLEASE CALL ME AT 466-2225 OR EMAIL KCARMICHAEL2225@GMAIL.COM. They have not given me a deadline yet for food and space so I will just say let me know by our membership meeting on Tuesday, January 3.

BCHW RENDEZVOUS 2017

By Ken Carmichael

The BCHW big event of the year is the Rendezvous held in Ellensburg Washington at the fairgrounds. This year it will be from Friday, March 17 through Sunday March 19.

Each year there are seminars and demonstrations, contests, vendors, chapter displays, huge tack sale, banquet and auctions (live, bucket and silent). And of course you cannot forget the fellowship as people of like mind (horses) get together for a weekend of fun. Just to round things out there is the BCHW annual membership meeting.

Here is how it works. If you are staying overnight make your own hotel reservations OR when registering for the banquet sign up for a camp spot at the fairgrounds, right next to the event. Speaking of registrations, there is NO cost for the rendezvous. What you are registering for is the banquet Saturday night. PBCH will purchase a table for the banquet BUT YOU must purchase the banquet ticket (register).

I will need to know who is coming to the banquet to account for the seating at the PBCH table. If there are not 8 of us signed up then we invite guests to join us.

More information, and registration form, will be posted on the BCHW website www.bchw.org. Watch for that.

UPCOMING PBCH EVENTS

By Ken Carmichael

In a previous email before the membership meeting everyone received a copy of the draft 2017 PBCH calendar. Here I would just like to highlight the upcoming PBCH events.

JANUARY 21 – PRAY FOR SPRING:

In anticipation of a hard, cold winter we feel that it will be necessary by January 21 to give our spirits a boost. Therefore at 1:00 pm we will meet at (TO BE DETERMINED, do you know a place?) to “pray for spring”. This will entail: eating ice cream (banana splits and sundaes), games, dressing like it is spring and sharing stories about how we are planning for the season. There will be banners, flowers and etc. to remind us that spring will come. Members and guests are welcome.

APRIL 7-9 – BCHW LEAVE NO TRACE SEMINAR:

Ponderosa chapter has agreed to host the statewide LNT seminar this spring. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the 7 Principles of LNT from the experts. It is a hands on and classroom seminar so you will have fun and learn something. We will have more information available on the web and via email. We want to give priority to PBCH members but the class size has to be limited so please let us know that you are attending.

JUNE 10-11 – FRONT COUNTRY TRAILHEAD CAMPING SEMINAR:

This hands on seminar is for those people wanting to start camping with their horses. It will be an overnight stay in Riverside State Park with horses. Chapter members will be there to help people. In addition we will be talking about: trailheads in the Spokane area, land management requirements, useful knots, useful camping gear, alternative methods of camping, horse confinement while camping, play games and much more. We will top it off with a trail ride. It should be a fun weekend and educational. Again we must limit the size of the class and want PBCH members to have the first chance at it. We will have more information on the website and future emails.

SEPTEMBER 30 – FALL FUN RIDE AND SCAVENGER HUNT:

We are going to do it again!! This was a very successful event last September but with that experience we intend to make it even more successful in 2017. We hope that all chapter members make it a point to promote this event and turn out to help.

In addition to the above events we will have rides and work parties. Continue to watch for more information about Ponderosa activities.

BCHW BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

December 3, 2016

Ken Carmichael, PBCH Director

The quarterly BCHW board meeting was held in Ellensburg. As part of my responsibilities as the Ponderosa chapter Director I am to communicate to the chapter activities taking place at the BCHW level. I also communicate chapter activities and interests to BCHW and other chapters. The following is a brief summary of the BCHW board meeting. You may obtain more details from me at any time.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – An ad has been produced and distributed looking for a new Executive Director. Deadline is December 15. Kathy thanked everyone that helped at the BCHW Wine ride October 29, 2016

MEMBERSHIP – BCHW membership is 1,476, taking into account family memberships this is 2,301 members.

TREASURER REPORT – The actual income and expenses for 2016 as compared to the budget was presented. BCHW has a positive cash flow.

WAYS AND MEANS – BCHW Calendars - Pictures to be included in the 2018 BCHW calendar must be provided by March 1, 2017. They can be sent to bchwcalendareditor@bchw.org. The large picture opposite the calendar months should NOT be taken with a cell phone, typically not enough pixels and those pictures do not enlarge well.

Rendezvous 2017 – March 17-19. We need volunteers to help on site, advertising and hotel liaison. A person volunteering to chair the 2018 rendezvous should be on board participating now.

Northwest Horse Source magazine – The board voted to continue having a page in the NWHS each month to promote BCHW and the activities.

WINERY RIDE – At the October 29 event there were 600 riders. With a net profit of about \$16,500. There were 94 volunteers for 2300 hours. The BCHW store sold about \$5,000 of merchandise. In 2017 it will be October 28.

STATEWIDE WORK PARTY - In 2017 it will be August 2-5th in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness in the Colville National Forest, approximately 95 miles north of Spokane. More will be in the newsletter.

GOVERNANCE AND BYLAWS – Instructions for new BCHW Directors were sent out in late November.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Senate Bill 3205 Human-Powered Travel in Wilderness Areas Act. The board passed a resolution opposing this bill as written. More information about this issue is available.

BCHW Legislative Day and Big Tent Rally Day – Both of these will be held in Olympia on February 15th. Further information about legislative actions will be posted on the chapter website.

Leadership Training – For eastern Washington chapters this will be January 14th in Moses Lake. Everyone possible should attend. We can arrange car-pooling.

RTP Grants – Two RTP grants for 2018-19 have been submitted. With the limit on grant size at \$150,000 BCHW needed to submit two grants for the 2018-19 cycle. The grants will be scored in February and we will know results probably in July 2017. Ponderosa chapter is participating in this grant cycle for work we will do at the Lakeview and Telford BLM properties.

BCHA – BCHA's Executive Administrator Erica Fearn is developing a database that will help manage the membership. I participated in a conference call about this and feel it is worthwhile. A brief summary of its benefits was presented. More information will be presented at the Leadership Training. BCHA committees are now being active throughout the year. I have been participating on the Public Lands and Education committee's conference calls. The BCHA board meeting will be in Great Falls in April 2017 and Spokane in April 2018.

VOLUNTEER HOURS – The volunteer hours year is from October 1 to September 30. For the just completed year **BCHW volunteer hours totaled 86,421.5 for a total value of \$3,070,632.03. The Ponderosa chapter submitted 2228 hours for a value of \$60,207.96. Out of 32 chapters Ponderosa was 11th in the total number of hours.**

PUBLIC LANDS – A report was provided on the progress of the Pacific Northwest Trail that goes from Glacier National Park to Puget Sound.

Colville National Forest Master Plan – A resolution was passed opposing all of the Master Plans alternatives unless one provides for trail maintenance.

LEGISLATIVE – Lobbyist - BCHW will no longer have a registered lobbyist on retainer. Legislative activity will be tracked by the committee. If they cannot meet the requirements for signing in or testifying on a bill then Joyce at the Trailhead News will provide this service.

Senate bill 3205 – This bill concerns use of bikes in wilderness. The board passed a resolution opposing this bill as it is written.

AWARDS – The committee reminded directors to propose members for BCHW awards as identified on the website. They also requested judges for the awards and financial support for the awards.

SAFETY – Washington trails Association Crew Leader College will be held again and nominations are open for people to attend from BCHW. Trail work leaders or active trail maintenance volunteers who collaborate with Washington Trails Association (WTA) on trail projects are encouraged to attend the workshop. We can submit nominations for attending the 2017 Crosscut Saw Filing Class held in USFS 9 Mile Remount Station near Missoula, Montana.

LEAVE NO TRACE – The 2017 BCHW Leave No Trace seminar will be held in Spokane on April 7-9. The registration form and facts sheet were passed out to directors. The LNT seminar in 2018 will be held in the Tri-Cities. BCHW will be at the 2017 Horse Expo.

WEBSITE – As the dates of additional events are known forward them to the BCHW webmaster. As chapter officers change BCHW directors need to update the BCHW database.

TRAILHEAD NEWS – The deadline for submitting articles for the March/April issue is January 18 so that information about the Rendezvous can be included.

ACCOMPLISHMENT VIDEO – Each year BCHW produces a video showing the accomplishments of the chapters over the past year. The deadline for material from the chapters is February 1, 2017. PBCH was in the 2015 video and will submit material for 2016.

BCHW POKER RIDE – This annual fundraising ride near Cle Elum is scheduled for May 20, 2017.

BCHW BUDGET – The 2017 budget was approved

BCHA ELECTIONS – Jason Ridlon was elected to another term as BCHA Director representing BCHW at the national level. Darrell Wallace is the other director and Ken Carmichael is the Alternate Director.

ENUMCLAW CHAPTER – The Enumclaw chapter voted to dissolve.

501 COMMONS CONSULTANT – Craig Lewis of 501 Commons spoke about ideas to help retain and gain memberships. It was a good discussion following a written report. I have documented my input and feel that there are many good ideas that PBCH should make use of. Membership efforts start at the chapter level.