



# PONDEROSA



BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON  
Preserving Trails and Providing Solutions

## NEW MEETING LOCATION

Hayford Community  
Church  
Fellowship Hall  
5306 S Hayford Rd  
Spokane WA 99224  
(Airway Heights)

September 2018

## Calendar

### September 8-9

Work Party & Camp Out  
Lakeview

### September 15

BCHW Board Meeting  
Ellensburg

### September 14-16

Leave No Trace Basic Skills  
Arlington, WA

### September 16

Riverside Work Party  
9 am @ Carlson Trailhead

### September 25

Scavenger Hunt Rehearsal  
6:00 pm @ Riverside Arena

### September 29

Scavenger Hunt  
Riverside Arena

### October 2

Membership Meeting @ 6:30

### October 6-7

Ride & Camp Out @ Escure



## BLAZE YOUR OWN TRAIL

By Dean Giles

Over this past Labor Day weekend, Brandy and I took a long-anticipated trip over to the coast with our horses. We had found a rental place called the Naytura Haus in Long Beach, and were looking forward to nice beach rides, good local seafood and a getaway from the overwhelming work/school/stress environment we'd been living in.

There were several things about this trip that were unknowns, and we were hoping that they would turn out well. Even fun trips have unknowns- these can be scary... even when others had done similar things and said it would be ok, there was still that bit of anxiety lurking.

For instance, neither of us had trailered such a long distance, and didn't know how the horses would weather the trip. One of my horses gets so worked up on a short drive to a trailhead that he's completely soaked with sweat. He's fine, just damp... no sweat at all on the ride home. He's a funny kid. The horse I took had no apparent issues with trailering, but I knew this would be a test of his tolerance. Turns out he handled it like an old pro, protested a bit but loaded right up on the return. Brandy's horse hadn't been in a trailer for more than an hour before, but handled the 9-hour trip just fine. Amazingly tolerant critters... I'm continually amazed at their versatility. Being confined in a trailer, the ground moving under their feet, the noise, wind, etc all must be completely foreign to a horse's nature, but they handle it. Like I said, amazing critters...



Another concern was the beach. Personally, I love the beach, but the horses had never seen waves, kites, cars driving by on the sand, the different colors of sand (wet vs dry), ruts in the sand from wheel tracks, salt air... all new stuff for them. When we arrived at the rental house/barn, we walked them to the beach as an introduction. At first, they were on high alert and snorted every step. It didn't take long, though, before I was able to walk Chase into the wet sand, even getting a small ripple wave to surge onto his feet... well, he jumped that one, but settled down pretty quickly. Brandy's horse is a little higher strung and never really got comfortable. He did fine though, and got with the program after the first ride. He had that "holy crap!!" look most of the time, but was a trooper and is getting more bombproof with every new experience.

Tell you what, those two horses are bonded now... sharing those scary experiences made them like brothers.

FYI, the Naytura Haus turned out to be an amazing place to stay; a cute cabin, great veranda deck, barn with 6 stalls and miles and miles of beach available.....the owners are good people and created a very nice environment. It's an all-around great experience!

What struck me about this trip is that there were a hundred things that were new, that could go wrong, which maybe we weren't prepared to handle, or were just plain ignorant about. Somehow it all worked out. I'm a huge believer in being prepared,

researching ahead of time, etc, but at some point you have to actually do it. When learning something new, it's ideal to watch first, do the activity with supervision, then do it yourself (pretty standard teaching) but we don't always have that ideal learning opportunity. We couldn't let fear of the unknown, or of looking unprepared stop us from trying.... it ended up being an awesome trip. Yes, ask people about things, get as prepared and knowledgeable as you can, but go... participate.. get involved... try something new! Blaze your own trail....

With all the scary new unknown things going on, there was one safety net that gave me a source of reassurance. This is the network of BCH chapters strung across the state. I knew that if we ran into issues, there was somebody to call. Here in Spokane I have the membership list and I know I can call for help if needed; this idea

extends across the state, and even across the country. BCH is made up of good people, that sincerely want to help their friends when called upon. For me, this is a source of comfort on trips, and a source of pride at all times.

It has been an honor to serve as President these last three years, and I thank each of you for your efforts in making this Chapter the success it has turned out to be. I hand over the reins knowing the Chapter will be in good hands. I look forward to helping with the Scavenger Hunt, the work parties, meetings and general activities, rides, and to the fellowship that comes with them all.

See you on the trail!



## Scavenger Hunt

By Ken Carmichael

The Scavenger Hunt will be **Saturday, September 29** at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area.

### **Things you need to know:**

We need all members to volunteer

Dress rehearsal will be **Tuesday night 6:00 pm** at the equestrian area. This will be a potluck

Scavenger Hunt day – arrival at 7:00 am depart when the job is done

This fundraiser is the only one the chapter has. It supports all the chapter functions including our work parties.

The dress rehearsal is important, even if you have helped in the past. There are changes this year. It is very important that our staff be comfortable helping in many ways. This is one of the ways this event is different than others. It is a unique event. We want people comfortable coming with their horses. We need everyone knowing what is going on. Please be on time as darkness sets in early in September.

**VOLUNTEERING** – I cannot over emphasize the importance of having people on site to help. Again, we want to look professional. That means having people there to do the jobs. This is not a job that is left to a few members. This is a job for every member of PBCH.

# Riverside State Park Work Party

By Ken Carmichael

We have scheduled a second work party to pick up barbwire in Riverside State Park.

It will be **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. We will meet at the Carlson Road Trailhead at 9:00. From there we will walk into the work site. We should plan on this being an all day party.

**BRING A DISCOVER PASS IF YOU HAVE IT. I WILL HAVE WORK PARTY PASSES FOR THOSE THAT DO NOT HAVE ONE.**

**MAKE NOTE OF YOUR MILAGE AND DRIVE TIME TO REPORT FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS.**

**If you have them please bring:**

Wire cutters

Bucket (to put wire clips in)

Bolt cutters

Heavy gloves (IMPORTANT)

Lunch

Water

The chapter will provide the hard hats and safety glasses.

We had a chance to preview the worksite again and have found a way to get the tractor in so we will be able to use the wire puller for much of the work. Some of the wire is on the ground and will be hand rolled.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a great work party and it went much faster than expected. With a good crew again we will have more success. This is a job that everyone can participate in so come one come all and have a good time.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE TRAILHEAD:** Go north on Highway 291 through Nine Mile Falls. After passing Nine Mile Falls (gas station, post office, hardware store on right) then turn left on Charles Rd. You immediately cross the river and turn left on Carlson Rd. (it comes on fast, just before the park headquarters). Go up the narrow road and turn right at the top of the hill. The trailhead is on the right.

Please RSVP to Ken Carmichael so we know who to expect. 466-2225 or [kcarmichael2225@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmichael2225@gmail.com).





## Back In the Saddle Again

By Tom and Diana Birge

In 2013 Diana and I both got new 3 year old Tennessee Walkers and were looking forward to retirement in a couple of years but 1 month after getting “Mercy” my walker I was diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis. At that time my lungs were working at about 45%. In 2014 we were able to go through training with our 2 new girls

“Mercy” and “Maizie” and were riding into November but it was getting harder and harder to maintain any exertion.

In January 2015 I was put on oxygen as needed, 2 liters to get my O2 level back up to 90%. I was able to get an appointment with University of Washington Medical Center to see if I qualified for a lung transplant.

After 5 months of different tests and interviews my case was brought before the transplant team. In the meantime my numbers had gone way down. I was on 10 liters of oxygen 24/7 and had to quit working because I was having such a difficult time breathing. Diana retired from work to take care of me. On November 30, 2015 I was approved for transplant.

Then my numbers took a dive. I was on 20 liters of oxygen at rest and 35 liters with exertion. On December 15 I was put in the hospital here and put on hi-flow oxygen at about 40 liters at rest. On December 23 I was flown to Seattle and put in Regional Hospital in Burien to wait for lungs, at that time my lungs were at about 12%. Diana had to find someone to take care of all of our animals, 3 horses to Northwest trails, 2 dogs to friends in Deer Park, and neighbors including Michele Eames to take care of our cats and chickens.

I was bed ridden and couldn't do much at all and completely lost my appetite. I dropped from 230# to 180#.

We really thought that there was no hope for me as I continued to get worse, but I praise God that on February 13 (Diana's birthday) we got the call.

After about an 8 hour surgery I had new lungs. I didn't wake up for a couple of days and I really thought that it was a failure. I found out later that the drugs can make you think weird things.

10 days after surgery they had me on my feet and I walked about 30 feet with a walker (not the kind of walker you ride.) This was the first time for 70 days. 30 days later I was released from the hospital but had to stay in Seattle for 2 more months for frequent follow-ups.

I had a lot of rehab to do and now 2-1/2 years later I'm getting back to where I want to be. Diana and I are working with our horses and we're back in the saddle again.

**“LEADERSHIP IS THE CAPACITY TO TRANSLATE VISION INTO REALITY”**

**--Warren Bennis**

**By Patti Sander**

What is your vision for Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen? We are all well aware of the general mission statement of BCHW; but where do you think Ponderosa Chapter fits into that vision?

Our Chapter has accomplished a lot since our inception in 2015. We are one of the most successful chapters in the state. The Charter members had a vision and worked together to make it reality; and we've only just begun!

October is fast approaching, bringing the time of year when we vote on new leadership for our Chapter. Our current officers, Dean Giles (President), Shannon Barnhart (Secretary), Joyce Johnson (Treasurer) and Ken Carmichael (Director) have all done a wonderful job guiding and directing Ponderosa in those accomplishments. They have devoted their time, money, worry, sweat, blood, tears and more. The membership is greatly beholden to each one of these individuals.

It's time to focus on next year and beyond....the question is....what about you? What is your vision for Ponderosa? Where can you fit in? Leadership opportunities are waiting. Will you be a chapter officer, or maybe fill one of the many volunteer positions that are available? What skills, talents and passions can you offer Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen to make the vision a reality?



## LEAFY SPURGE

(*Euphorbia esula*)

Euphorbiaceae, The Spurge Family

- An aggressive perennial that spreads by rootstalks and seeds
- Grows 1 to 3 feet tall
- Narrow bluish-green leaves are up to 4 inches long
- Flowers are small and enclosed by yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts and bloom from May into the fall.
- Stems, leaves and flowers contain a toxic milky

latex sap

- It can be found in any type of soil and is commonly found in rangeland, pastures, roadsides, waste areas and wetland sites.

Caution: Horses and cattle should not graze the plants; the toxic sap causes blisters or ulcerations.

### CONTROL METHODS

**Chemical:** Picloram applied in late spring or fall will give season-long suppression of leafy spurge. 2, 4-D, dicamba + 2,4-D or Triclopyr + 2,4-D will provide some control, but must be applied 2 to 4 times each growing season. **These products not for use in home landscapes.**

#### **Non-Chemical:**

- Fertilization and pasture health are extremely important
- Mow and pull to prevent seed production. The sap of leafy spurge is toxic; skin and eye protection are needed when handling this plant.
- DO NOT CULTIVATE; new plants can begin from the cut root segments.

**Biological:** Several insect biological control agents are available for this plant and may be present, including six flea beetles whose adults feed on leaves and flowers and larvae feed on root hairs or roots. Sheep, goats, and hogs will graze leafy spurge. It is not only satisfactory forage for these animals, but they actually prefer it. Constant grazing slows the weed's spread and starves out the root system.

# GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

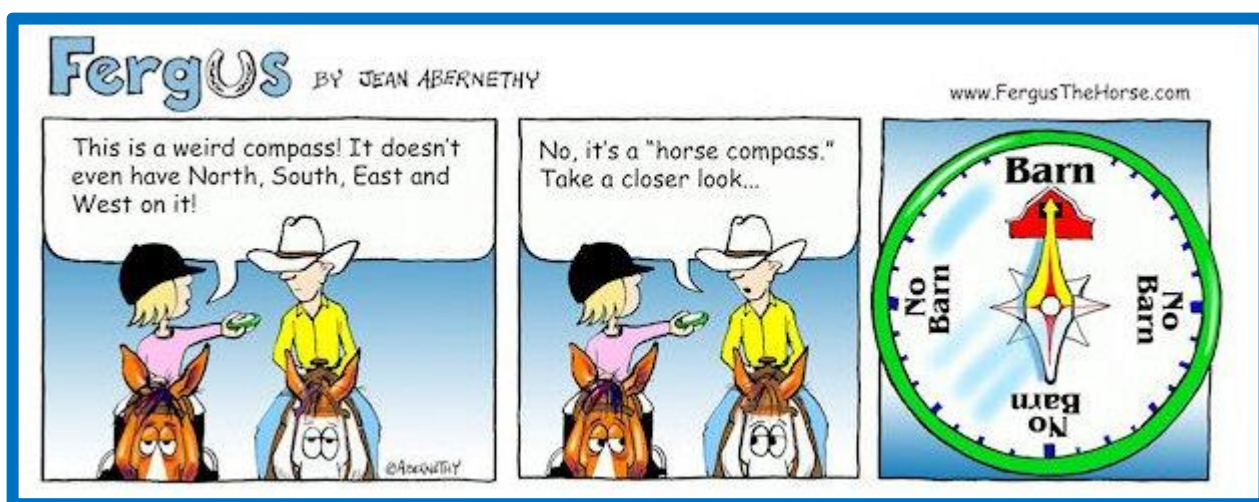
A **Great Big Thank You** and appreciation is extended to the following individuals

**Dee Dee Denison** for hosting our Pot Luck and Fellowship at her beautiful home on August 17. A great time was had by all and really yummy food. We all had an opportunity to visit with Dee Dee's horses and tour her new indoor arena! **THANK YOU!**

**Teresa and Doug Bailey** for providing goodies at the meetings! Thank you!

**Diana and Tom Birge** for arranging for our new meeting place at Hayford Community Church. Beautiful facility and I believe we'll be very comfortable there. **THANK YOU!**

**And last but not least....everyone else** who has provided goodies, hosted a meeting or an event, or gave of their time and efforts on our behalf over the past months and years. You are all greatly appreciated and valued as members of this Chapter. **THANK YOU!**





# Money Money Money

By Michelle Eames

When I am planning to haul my horse somewhere, I always make sure my truck has gas, and I fill up ahead of time. I usually leave my purse at home, and carry my little cloth shoulder pouch with my phone, driver's license, a credit card (I hardly ever carry cash), a compass, and some Sudafed and ibuprofen. That gets me through most emergencies.



But sometimes, I don't have time the night before, or I am extra tired and I procrastinate. I am a skilled procrastinator. On those days, I build in time to get gas before leaving. A month ago was one of those times. I planned to pick up my neighbor Carol and her horse, get gas on the way, and head an hour and a half southwest to meet friends and ride at Lakeview Ranch, near Odessa. After stopping at Carol's and getting her horse and gear loaded, she stepped up into the truck cab and handed me 25 bucks to chip in for gas. "No, it's okay, I'm buying the gas," I said. She insisted, so I suggested she put it in the glove box for a future emergency.

We drove 15 minutes to the gas station. I pulled my phone out of my little pouch, and reached for my credit card... it wasn't there. I forgot to transfer it from purse to pouch. "Um, Carol, I don't have a credit card." "Oh no", she said, "I didn't bring my wallet."

I had a quarter tank of gas in the truck. Horse-trucks eat gas like a middle-aged woman eats chocolate. We were running late. I was calculating the time to head home, grab the card and return, versus maybe calling my hubby to bring it to me. Then we remembered the cash. Twenty five bucks at \$3.40 a gallon. We scrounged around for extra cash in the console and glove box: nothing. I put the \$25 worth of gas in the truck. It bumped the gage up to a bit more than half a tank. I asked Carol to calculate whether we could get to Odessa. She figured at 10 miles per gallon, we could make it there, and potentially back but it was tight. (I didn't tell her that on one trip my beast of a truck got 8 miles per gallon...but that was on the interstate, with trailer and camper at 70 mph....and for this trip we were planning to go rural highways and back roads, so surely we should get 10 or more miles per gallon...I hoped...) Plus, we were also meeting friends in two other rigs there and hopefully they would have some cash. We checked the time again. "Let's do it!"

I headed the rig down Highway 2, trying not to be a lead-foot and watching the gas gage creep down. That's the other thing about horse-hauling rigs, you can practically see the needle move as you drive. It can be unnerving. I tried not to think about what we would do if somehow our friends didn't meet us. But, I figured worst case, we could make it home. Barely. On fumes. Then I imagined if we really ran out of gas... would someone stop for us? I thought yes, because we were hauling horses. Horse people would stop. We continued down the quiet and lightly travelled roads to Odessa. We debated whether we should follow the navigator directions from Carol's phone, or follow the written directions our friend had sent. The phone directions might be shorter and save some gas... or it might take us on a road that doesn't exist. We decided to follow the written directions; the known quantity. We drove through Odessa, and didn't see a single gas station, at least not on that end of town. We took the jog in the road to head up to the ranch.

At last we arrived, with  $\frac{3}{8}$  tank left. Again, I figured we could make it home on fumes... but I didn't really want to try it. I was sure we could make it to Davenport, two thirds of the way home, and we knew that town had a gas station. Once all the riders arrived, I explained my predicament. Out of the other three riders, they scrounged up a total of \$23.00. That's it, 5 adult women with 23 dollars in cash between them. We were rolling in dough. Horsewomen are rich in experiences, not in cash. Nonetheless, I figured it would make all the difference. Thank you kind ladies!

We went for our ride, had snacks, and headed back North. I watched my gas gage the whole way to Davenport, then put \$23 in at the corner gas station. I was pleased that we would be able to make it home, and also pleased that our friends had come through with some cash. I decided, though, to add a credit card to my list of things to pack for a horse trip. Now all I have to do is remember to check my list. After I find my list.

I also decided I should carry emergency money tucked in to my phone case. I had a little debate with myself on how much emergency money it should be. Really, 20 bucks doesn't go far in a truck's gas tank. It should be at least 40. Fifty would be even better, but whoever has a 50 dollar bill laying around? And the slot in my phone case is small, so more than two folded bills was getting pretty bulky. I settled on two 20-dollar bills.

I finally remembered to pay back the friend that loaned me \$20 a few weeks later, and as I'm writing this I can't remember if I paid the \$3 back to my other friend. I better check with her. Recently, a different friend hauled my horse and I out to a ride along Long Lake. I offered to chip in for gas, and guess what? I actually had some cash tucked in the spot in my phone case, and was able to give her cash right then and there. I think I replaced the money in my phone case when I got home. Hmmm... I better go check on that. Hopefully, I won't forget my credit card again, let alone leave filling the tank to the last minute. But if it does happen, I will have my emergency cash stash. Always be prepared!

### **ATTENTION!**

Those of you who attended the Pot Luck and Fellowship at Dee Dee Denison's house last month saw the beautiful, new indoor arena, outdoor arena and round pen that she has at her place. Dee Dee has extended an invitation to feel free to use these facilities whenever you'd like.

She is charging \$10 a day for the facilities use. There will be an "Honor" box posted in the indoor arena. If you use the facilities, be sure to close doors/gates and watch out for her horses if you venture to the outdoor arena or round pen.

Remember....be good stewards and practice Leave No Trace! (aka: Pick up your Poop)

**THANK YOU, DEE DEE! YOU ARE AWSOME!**