



PONDEROSA



Back Country Horsemen of Washington
We Get it Done !

March 2020

CALENDAR

March 3, PBCH Meeting

**Irish potluck : Bring
something Irish or
Something Green!**

**March 14, 4-H Tack Sale @
Spokane Fairgrounds**

**March 20, 21, and 22,
BCHW Rendezvous @
Ellensburg**

**March 25, 2020 - Movie
night: Packing**

**March 28, 2020 - Packing
“show and tell”**

**April 4, 2020- PBCH Dental
Clinic with Dr. Charlie**

April 7, 2020- PBCH Meeting



**Carol Klar, Sue White, and Louise
Walton joined some friends for a
“goodbye to winter” ride before the
trails thawed and got messy.**

Bits and Blurbs

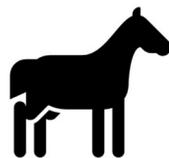
By Patti Carmichael



- Membership renewals deadline is February 29. A new membership list will be published in early March.



- For the March meeting we will have a potluck. Bring something Irish, or something green. Social hour/potluck at 5 30, meeting at 6 pm. Hayford Community Church.
- We need 4-H tack sale volunteers. There will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting. We will be promoting LNT and our poker ride. We will need 6 volunteers as follows:
 - 10 am to 12 noon, 3 people
 - 12 noon to 2 pm, 3 people
- Movie night at Carmichael's on March 25 at 6 30 pm. We will show the BCH Packing Clinic video. Popcorn and beverages provided! Yum!
- A packing "Show and Tell" Clinic will be March 28 at 9 30 a.m. at Dee Dee's Arena. This will be no cost. Members only.
 - Bring sack lunch and your chair, and something to take notes.
 - You are welcome to bring any of your own equipment to show and tell.
 - No horses.
- Poker ride update:
 - We have received 4 preregistrations! Yeah!
 - At March meeting, we will need to sign up volunteers. We need everyone!



Please be prepared to help!

Thank you!

Legislative Day in Olympia; Feb. 17th.

By Doug Bailey, Legislative Chair

Thirty members of the BCHW delegation met in the Pritchard Building's Washington Room where Jeff Chapman officiated.

Legislators Clifford from the Tri-Cities spoke, followed by Ms. Warnick from Central Washington. John Snyder from the Spokane area spoke on upcoming legislation.

There were speakers from different agencies including DNR and the Forest Service. I had a great day getting my feet wet at the Capitol and look forward to covering legislative issues for the Ponderosa Chapter.



Image: sos.wa.gov

DATES to REMEMBER 2020

March 3, 2020 - PBCH Meeting

March 14, 2020 - 4-H Tack Sale @ Spokane Fairgrounds

March 20, 21, and 22, 2020- BCHW Rendezvous, Kittitas Valley Event Center – Ellensburg

March 25, 2020 - Movie night at Carmichaels': Packing

March 28, 2020 - Packing "show and tell" at Deedee's

April 4, 2020 - PBCH Dental Clinic with Dr. Charlie at Deedee Denison's arena

April 7, 2020 - PBCH Meeting

April 9-10, 2020 - Work Party Trail markers Riverside

April 30th, 2020 - Volunteer Hours preliminary hours

May 1 to 3 - PBCH ladies' campout. Limited spots

May 5, 2020- PBCH Meeting & Cinco de Mayo potluck with class on easy electric corral construction.

May 16, 2020 - Riverside State Park Ride, Members and Guests

May 22nd - 24, 2020- Escure Ranch Ride and Work Party Fire Pits

June 2, 2020 - PBCH meeting

June 6th weekend - PBCH Trail Obstacle Clinic at Rendezvous Ranch. Limited Spots.

June 9, 2020 - Poker ride dress rehearsal

June 13, 2020 - PBCH Poker Ride @ Riverside State Park

June 20, 2020 - BCHW board meeting

July 3 - 8, 2020 - BCHW State Wide Work Party

July 7, 2020 - Membership meeting

July 11, 2020 - Mt Spokane Ride (Nordic Area) Members and guests

July 31, 2020 - Volunteer Hours preliminary hours due

August 4, 2020 - Membership meeting

September 1, 2020 - Membership Meeting

October 31, 2020 - 19th Annual Winery Ride and Halloween Costume/Prize Ride @ Zillah
(find more events here: http://www.bchw.org/Int/main/upcoming_events.htm)

Education Update – as of 2/25/20

Just a brief update on Q2 activities, since I sent a long report a few days ago.

April 4th - Dental Clinic with optional vaccines and Coggins Tests has 2 available spots.

May 1-3 - Ladies Campout at Ancient Lakes is full. Will accept names for waitlist, in the event of cancellations.

June 6-7 - Trail Obstacle Clinic at Rendezvous Ranch has 2 available spots.

If you'd like further info or would like to register, please email me: cklar32@gmail.com



At our May 5th Cinco de Mayo potluck-meeting, there will be a demonstration on building an easy electric travel corral. No registration necessary.

July 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

At some point after June, we will have a visit from the Knotty Girls. More info to come as we firm things up with them.

As always, drop me a note with any suggestions for educational activities.

[Carol Klar](mailto:cklar32@gmail.com), Education Coordinator

Volunteer Hours

Thanks for the input that the majority of you have sent. If there is anything outstanding, please have it all to me by 2/27 at the latest for inclusion in the Q1 report. cklar32@gmail.com Volunteer Hours Reports are submitted to the state at the end of February, May, July and September.



Things to Carry on a Trail Ride (short or day trip)

From Louise:

- For me I always have a small whistle and with the increase pressure of predators, bear spray might be a good thing to take. I wonder if it works on moose?? [*Note from editor: I'd try it on a moose, or a cougar, especially if my horse bolted and I'm left behind on the ground... still trying to figure best way to carry bear spray on my body, not my saddle for that reason...*]
- Carry a snack. The best snack for me is protein (the fat just comes along for the ride). String cheese is great since it is individually wrapped. Egger's Meats here in Deer Park has a Longaberger (sp) stick which is great and much better than most beef sticks or jerky. One of each for lunch and I can ride forever.

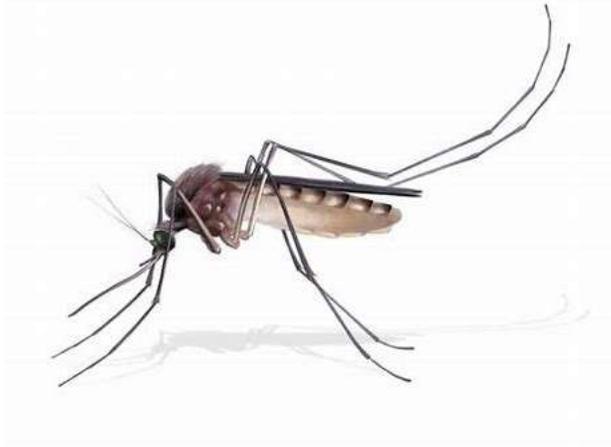
From Michelle:

Even on short trail rides, even if it's just down the road to ride with a neighbor, I always carry the items below in the list. For longer or more remote rides, I will add a survival kit with more emergency items. I wear a waist-pouch (or fanny pack) with the drugs, contact info, phone, and snack. I'm still looking for the best design, but a fanny pack works for now. For a while I wore a small cloth shoulder bag, basically a stylin' cloth purse, but I kept getting it caught on the horn while dismounting. Somehow that felt unsafe. I want the phone, etc., to stay on my body, in case I come off and my horse goes for a run to find the nearest buddy and I need to call for help. Or to call home to tell my family I'm still alive but horse is running home. I know that sounds like a common theme with me (being non-voluntarily separated from my horse), but really, it doesn't happen TOO often...

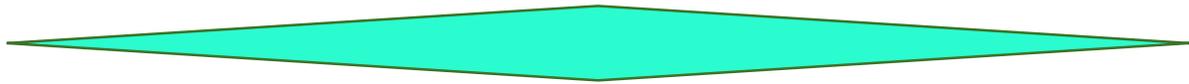
- Good Drugs. For me this is Sudafed, and Ibuprofen. If I feel one of those killer head aches coming on, I want to nip it in the bud before I ruin my ride.

- Contact Information. This is an artifact of a club I belonged to that required contact and doctor information on the rider. But, it's a good thing if you get hurt and someone else needs to call for help.
- Phone. I carry this in my pouch with a long lanyard in case I drop it. I drop things all the time: phones, reins, hints... Also, it is good when I remember to charge my phone prior to the ride. Some intelligent friends carry power-packs with them to add a charge during the ride. Those trail mapping programs can suck the juice out of your phone.
- A snack. I crash if I don't eat. I always have at least a granola bar in easy reach in my pouch, and often more food stashed in my saddle bag.
- Water. I crash if I don't drink, too. I dehydrate easily, and have learned this the hard-way. I always have water, and if I run out I've been known to beg water from friends. I have a neoprene water holder that hooks over my pomel. This year I will try one of those water bladder thingy's you wear on your back. And, I'm adding a small water purifier to my survival kit.
- Helmet. Every ride, every time. It's a habit I got into taking riding lessons, and I just keep it up. Besides, it saved my butt (actually my head) on one unplanned dismount on my current horse.
- Jacket. I love eastern Washington, and our weather, but it can change quickly. I usually have an extra layer or rain jacket tied to my saddle, or in a saddle bag. This was useful once when a friend and her horse fell into the Spokane River during flood stage. (Both came out fine, but that's another story...). But the extra jacket allowed us to get her home, soaked, but not freezing, in blustery spring weather.
- Hoofpick. Or an everything tool. Our horses like to get giant rocks stuck in their hooves, and a hoofpick is a genius tool for solving that problem. Trailside sticks are not as useful.

From Cindy: My horses are unforgiving if I don't bring Bug Repellent! I keep it very handy.



With all our wet boggy weather, we run into many of these. I spray before the ride and sometimes need to apply again during the ride when the attack is vicious.



Updated Ten Essential Systems

By Michelle Eames

My favorite hiking and camping gear website (<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>) discusses the 10 essentials. They explain that the original list of 10 essentials was a specific list of items, but now it has evolved to a list of themes that you can use to fit a particular trip. Hikers are a lot like back country riders, although without the horse, and we can learn from them. Below, I compare the list of 10 essentials, with notes as appropriate on what to add to a horse-back trip.

	Hiking 10 essentials	Comments/Modifications for trail riding
1	Navigation: map, compass, altimeter, GPS device, personal locator beacon (PLB) or satellite messenger	Include a paper map, for when (not if) your phone batteries die. I carry one in a large ziplock bag, for protection from weather.
2	Headlamp: plus extra batteries	A flashlight is a great addition to your saddle bag, for those times when you mis-judge the time to get back to the trailer. Yes, your phone has a light, but it can die and you may need to preserve the charge for other things.
3	Sun protection: sunglasses, sun-protective clothes and sunscreen	A halter and lead rope in case you need to tie your horse in an emergency. I know this has nothing to do with sun, but I had to put it somewhere.

4	First aid: including foot care and insect repellent (as needed)	Add any personal drugs you need (for me, it's Sudafed and ibuprofen). Also think of horse first-aid (ie: vet wrap).
5	Knife: plus a gear repair kit	Hoof pick, everything tool, and bailing twine or parachute cord in case something breaks.
6	Fire: matches, lighter, tinder and/or stove	Add a metal cup, and a tea-bag, and your unplanned evening in the woods just got more comfortable.
7	Shelter: carried at all times (can be a light emergency bivy) [<i>See Bivy article below</i>]	A Les Schwab bag, or small tarp will work.
8	Extra food: Beyond the minimum expectation	Extra granola bars or candy in saddle bags.
9	Extra water: Beyond the minimum expectation	Consider a water purifier, or at least iodine tablets.
10	Extra clothes: Beyond the minimum expectation	A slicker for storms, and a warm hat in case you are out longer than expected. I also like gloves for riding and for leading a horse, even in nice weather.



What in the World is a Bivy?

By Michelle Eames

“A bivy sack, otherwise known by its full name, a bivouac sack, is a personal-sized waterproof shelter. Originally used by climbers on multi-day excursions, it is a very small and lightweight alternative to carrying a tent. Now it is used by hikers, mountaineers, minimalist campers and the like.”

(<https://www.theactivetimes.com/what-bivy-sack>)



Above is a picture of a bivy sack from <https://www.msrgear.com/blog/the-art-of-the-bivy/>. This makes me feel claustrophobic just looking at it. I don't like things over my face at night. Also, if you look through the link, you will see mountain climbers on steep rocky faces sleeping between boulders in their bivy sacks. Even looking on-line, that is activating my fear of heights a bit. I'm not getting warm fuzzy feelings from the bivy sacks.

REI has an emergency bivy (<https://www.rei.com/product/813511/sol-emergency-bivy>). This looks like a good light weight option to slip into a saddle bag for a day trip that goes unexpectedly long. Plus, this advertisement does not include a photo of someone trying to sleep on the edge of a high mountain cliff, so I like it much better. It's all about the marketing!

I have a neat book that I've been working through, called The Art of Rough Travel, From the Peculiar to the Practical, Advice from a 19th Century Explorer; by Sir Francis Galton. Sir Frances talks about bivouacking, here are a few of his quotes:

Bivouacking is miserable work in a wet or un-healthy climate, but in a dry and healthy one there is no question of its superiority over tenting.

Men [or women] who sleep habitually in the open breathe fresher air and are far more imbued with the spirit of wild life than those who pass the night within the stuffy enclosure of a tent.

It is an endless pleasure to lie half awake watching the stars above and the picturesque groupings of the encampment round about, and to hear on all sides the stirring of animal life.

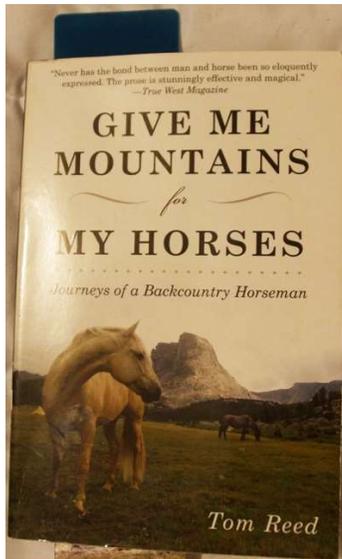
If you put it that way, bivouacking sounds dreamy! Here's hoping all our bivouacking adventures are planned, and are on warm summer nights. But if not planned, let's hope we are carrying all the right supplies, just in case, and we have a long, but safe, night.



[Robert Eversole has a great list trail rider checklist. I've attached the list at the end of the newsletter, but you can find an easily printable list at his website, here:](https://www.trailmeister.com/trail-rider-check-list/)

<https://www.trailmeister.com/trail-rider-check-list/>

BOOK REVIEW By Cindy Miller



During dreary evenings when the dark night filled my time with moods brought on by sun deprivation, and I was 'forced' to stay inside the confines of four walls, I grabbed this well-written book authored by Tom Reed. His stories took me out of my home and transported me into the Greater Yellowstone backcountry on the back of a horse (and packing!). The love of horses was never questioned here. He described his partnership with horses such as Jade, a tried and true 'mountain lady' who had an uncanny ability to correctly follow lost trails, and many others.

A little excerpt from this book,

"For me, I want a horse that will get down the trail, a stepping-out, go-to-town type of animal that enjoys going somewhere and seeing what's over the next ridge. There are horses and there are mountain horses. Mine have all been mountain horses. Taken alone they move your soul. Taken together, they move your life."

If you want to enjoy reading some captivating short true stories of Tom Reed's packing trips, I will gladly lend you the book.

GIVE ME MOUNTAINS FOR MY HORSES By TOM REED

Journeys of a Backcountry Horseman

PONDEROSA BCH; OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 2020

<u>ELECTED POSTIONS</u>	
PRESIDENT	TOM BIRGE
SECRETARY	PATTY WRIGHT
TREASURER	DIANA BIRGE
STATE DIRECTOR	KEN CARMICHAEL

<u>VOLUNTEER POSITIONS</u>		<u>UNFILLED OPPORTUNITIES</u>	
EDUCATION	CAROL KLAR	FUND RAISING	OPEN (temporary Ken C)
LANDS	CRAIG VOLOSING	HISTORIAN	OPEN
TRAIL BOSS/WORK PARTIES	DOUG BAILEY	ADS	Open
VOLUNTEER HOURS	CAROL KLAR	PUBLICITY	OPEN
LEGISLATIVE	Doug Bailey	COORDINATE W/ OTHER CHAPTERS	OPEN
ANALYSIS OF INCOME	KEN CARMICHAEL	SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	OPEN
DONATIONS	LINDA WHITE	TRAIL BOSS/ORGANIZE RIDES	OPEN
GRANT ADMINISTRATION	DOUG BAILEY	INDIVIDUAL TRAIL RIDE LEADERS (short term)	OPEN
EQUIPMENT INVENTORY-	KEN CARMICHAEL	FINANCIAL REVIEW	OPEN
GROUP SPACE ADMIN	KEN CARMICHAEL	WORK PARTY LEADERS (short term)	OPEN
BCH STORES	TOM BIRGE	OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE (short term)	OPEN
MEMBERSHIP	DIANA BIRGE		
NEWSLETTER EDITOR/PUBLISHER	MICHELLE EAMES/ CINDY MILLER		
PRINTED MATERIAL	KEN CARMICHAEL		
PHOTOGRAPHY	GARY MILLER		
FACEBOOK	CINDY MILLER/CAROL KLAR		
WEB CONTACT	KEN CARMICHAEL		
WEB MASTER	CHUCK RICE		
SAFETY	DON DYER		
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION	PATTI CARMICHAEL		
<u>MEETING ORGANIZATION</u>		<u>UNFILLED MEETING OPPORTUNITIES</u>	
GREETER/NAME TAGS	PATTI CARMICHAEL	PROGRAMS	Open
LIBRARY	THERESA BAILEY	REFRESHMENTS	Open
ROOM MANAGEMENT	TOM/DIANA BIRGE		

From the Editor:

I invite you all to continue 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.

Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor

P.S. Please send me photos of you and your equine buddy so I can highlight you in our newsletter! Introduce yourself to the new members with background on you or your horse!

<https://www.clipart.email/download/1106847.html>

Taken recently. Spring is close! Cindy Miller photo





Trail Rider Checklist – From www.TrailMeister.com



Your Where to Ride Guide

In the Truck / Trailer

- Road Map and Directions to trailhead
- Registration / Insurance
- Coggins Papers / Health Papers/Brand Inspection
- Flashlight w/ spare batteries
- Spare Tire Truck / Trailer
- Jack & Lug Wrench - Truck and Trailer
- Chock Blocks for Wheels
- Manure Rake / Forks
- Manure bucket
- Spares
 - Extra Cinch / Girth
 - Headstall / Bridle
 - Reins
 - Halter and Lead
- Tools – Pliers / Screwdriver
- Duct tape
- Garbage bags

Tack

- Saddle
- Bridle
- Saddle Pads
- Saddle / Pommel Bags
- Halter
- Hobbles
- Breast Collar
- Crupper / Breechin
- Cinch / Girth
- ID tag

Equine Supplies

- Feed – Hay / Grain
- Feed and Water Buckets
- Water
- Hay Bag
- Horse First Aid Kit
- Fly Spray
- Hoof Pick
- Sponge or rag
- Grooming Supplies

Personal Supplies

- Riding Pants and Jeans
- Riding Boots
- Socks
- Outerwear Jacket / Sweater
- Rain Gear
- Undergarments
- Extra Set of Keys
- Knife
- Lip Balm
- Hat - Gloves
- Helmet
- Sun Block
- Insect Repellent
- First Aid Kit
- Toilet Paper / Wet Ones
- Medications
- ID for emergencies

On the Trail

- Hoof Pick
- Knife / Wire Cutters
- Map of the area / Compass
- Water Bottle
- Snacks
- Saddle Bag / Pommel Bags
- Helmet
- Insect Repellent
- First Aid Kit
- Rain Slicker
- Cell Phone/way to call for help
- Rope/ cord for repairs
- Lead rope
- Sun Block
- Camera
- Lighter
- Saw

Camp Equipment

- Tent / Hammock
- Sleeping bag
- Camp Shoes/Mud Boots
- Lantern
- Food
- Camp Stove
- Air mattress
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Insect Repellent
- Camp Chairs
- Folding table
- Highline gear