



PONDEROSA



Back Country Horsemen of Washington
We Get it Done !

May 2020

CALENDAR

Note: No May PBCH meeting.

All event dates subject to change or cancellation: Watch facebook and the PON3 emails.

May 16 - Riverside State Park Ride, Members and Guests

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

**June 2 - PBCH meeting
5:30 to socialize; 6pm for meeting
@Hayford Community Church**

June 6 - PBCH Trail Obstacle Clinic



The photo was taken during the Trailhead Camping Seminar at Riverside State Park a few years ago. A demonstration and instruction on highlining was given by Ken Carmichael.



Looking to the FUTURE – campouts!

Editor's Note

These are crazy times, but we still have hopes to get back to horse camping. Our newsletter theme is "front country camping". To me, this means camping at a trailhead, or established horse camp, and riding out on day trips. I am hopeful we will all be able to do this soon.

In the last newsletter, we had a color page attached. Several members did some coloring, and shared them with their families. Their creations are scattered throughout. Enjoy these moments of brightness!

We keep planning, and dates keep changing, but we'll see you on the trails soon.

Be safe!

Michelle Eames

**Coloring Creation
1: Patti
Carmichael**



Director Report

By Ken Carmichael

Although many aspects of our society and economy are suspended, BCH continues to be active. As I write this the Back Country Horsemen of America is holding its annual meeting electronically. BCHW continues to monitor and respond to legislative activity affecting horsemen. Membership is developing a new electronic membership application to replace the "Your Membership" program. The BCHW website is being revised. The Trailhead News, although delayed a month, will be printed. We also continue to plan for events that will take place as regulations permit. This includes the quarterly board meeting, work parties and fundraisers. I am involved with several Governance and Bylaws activities at the state level.

Our direction stays the same, keep trails open. Yes, it takes the paperwork to make this happen and there is nothing stopping us from doing that now.

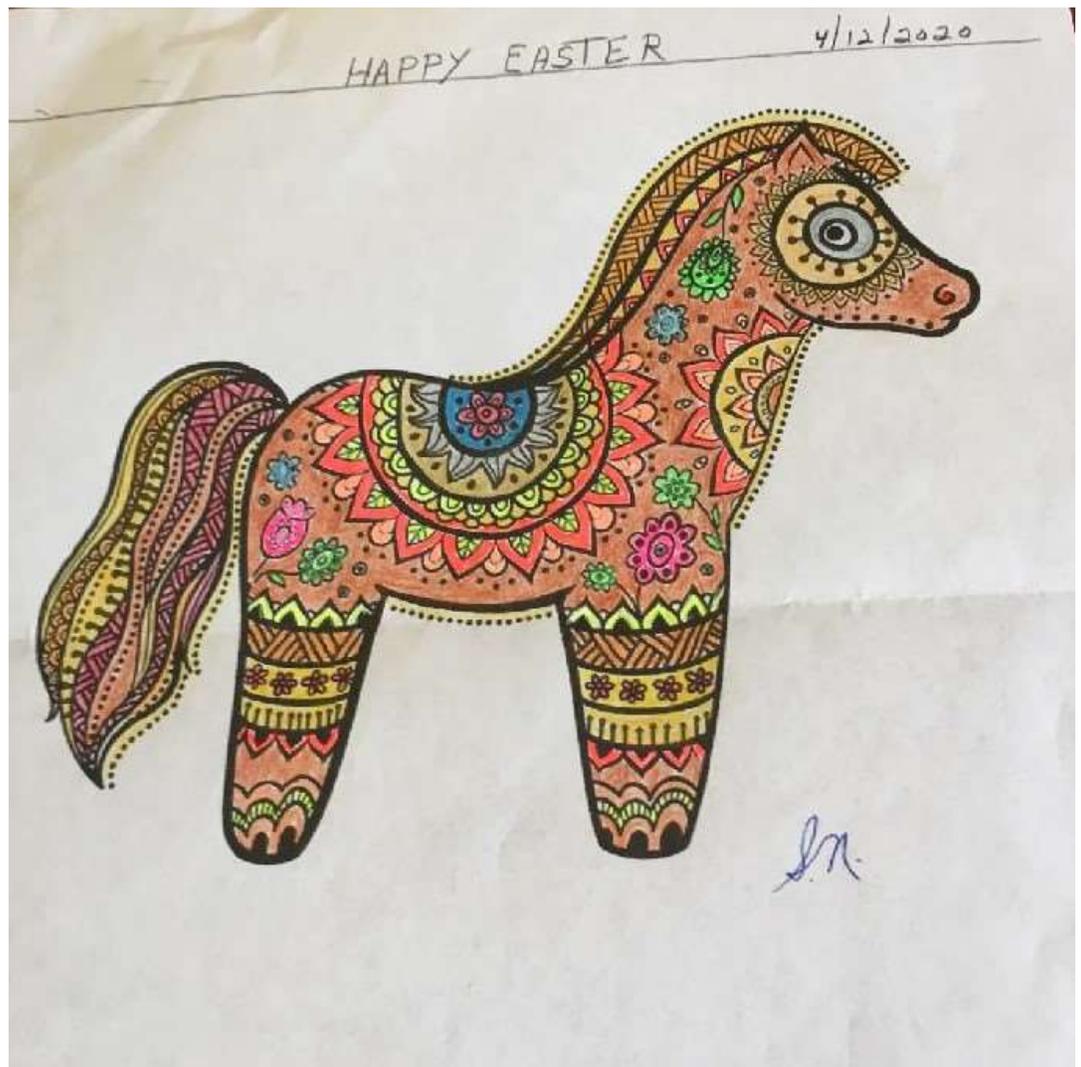
The difference is that we are tied to these computers and telephones to make all this happen. We hope that you are taking this time to prepare for when things break loose, and they will.

Coloring Creation

2. By Karen

Rice's mom

"Sue"



DATES to REMEMBER 2020

All Dates and Events subject to Change or Cancellation.

May 16 - Riverside State Park Ride, Members and Guests

June 2 - PBCH meeting

June 6 - PBCH Trail Obstacle Clinic

June 20 - BCHW board meeting

July 3 – 8 - BCHW State Wide Work Party

July 7 – PBCH Membership meeting

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

August 4 - Membership meeting

August 29- New Date! PBCH Poker Ride

September 1 – PBCH Membership Meeting

September 18-20-New Date! PBCH Ladies' Ancient Lakes Camping trip

October 31 - 19th Annual Winery Ride and Halloween Costume/Prize Ride @ Zillah

(find more events here: http://www.bchw.org/Int/main/upcoming_events.htm)

Poker Ride

By Ken Carmichael

As everyone is aware, the poker ride had to be postponed. It is now scheduled for **Saturday, August 29 at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area**. If everything goes smoothly, we will be able to hold the event.

What now? We will continue to plan for the event with advertising, sponsors, permits and supplies. As it gets closer to the date we will again be asking for volunteers.

Please let your friends know about the event. Carol Klar has lots of information up on PBCH Facebook and Chuck Rice has the website updated.

This is a fun event and hopefully many riders will be ready to get on the trail.

Coloring Creation 3. Patti Carmichael



Front Country Camping

By Ken Carmichael

This newsletter is highlighting front country camping. I think the first step is to identify what front country camping is. Patti and I got into a discussion as to what places we go are considered FCC. What defines front country? Is it the facilities available, distance from home, how big the campground is, or even if there is a campground? Probably we can define camping as staying overnight.

Anyway, we enjoy several places to camp, no matter what they are called. Our favorite is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rock Creek Recreation Area, also known as the Escure Ranch. It is two hours from home, has a concrete outhouse, a couple of corrals and some highlines. That is pretty front country. However, the last two miles in is a very rough, one lane road and there is no human water. That does not bother us any. Besides, it has some great riding on about 13,000 acres where I typically do not get lost.

Another BLM property, the Lakeview Ranch, also provides good camping. It has a nice grass area, horse water, picnic tables and good riding. However, no toilets or human water. We built 14 really nice corrals there.

Just some other places I have camped over the years that are relatively easy, with or without facilities, include Kalispell Basin (Chewelah Creek), Kettle Crest, Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge and BLM Twin Lakes. They all are within 3 hours of home. Other places you may want to try are: Columbia Plateau Trail (State Parks), Gypsy Meadows (National Forest), Palouse to Cascade Trail (State Parks). Also follow the adventures of other BCH members in the Trailhead News. Lots of good riding is reported there.

I would just like to point out that camping with the horses can be made very simple. It does not need lots of equipment or experience. Start simple and add equipment as you see that you want or need it. The main factor is securing your horses at night. The best way to do this is with the highline. This can be practiced at home. It is usually best when starting out to know something about the area you are going into. This can involve a day trip to investigate, or get information from someone that has been there or go with them. I always write down very specific instructions as to how to get to each campsite.

Another note, tell someone where you are and your schedule. When we are riding in unknown territory, or camping, I let two family members know my schedule. I do this with a form I designed. It is easy to complete and update for each trip. Because it is in Word I can modify it and expand it to fit the information I want to include. A copy follows this article. If you would like a Word Copy let me know, or design one of your own.

On another "happy" note, if I am with you and you are hurt, do I know how to reach your emergency contact person? It is kind of comforting to be able to tell them what hospital you are going to. When we have BCH rides people sign the Liability Release. You may note that at the bottom there is a place to put your emergency contact information. You may wish to take that seriously. Also, I carry a membership list in my glove box. That may help. That is also good for when I am broken down and need help getting the horses home.

PERSONAL EMERGENCY PLAN

This Personal Emergency Plan is intended to assist individuals and groups that may be called upon to provide emergency assistance or information in the event that I am involved in an unplanned event. The Personal Emergency Plan is divided into two sections. First is the static information that does not change regularly. Second is trip-specific information subject to change with each activity or event.

STATIC INFORMATION

Personal Information

Name:

Address:

Phone numbers (area code + land line & cell phone numbers):

Date of birth:

Weight:

Known medical conditions (no matter how small):

Medications (prescription/non-prescription):

Medications carried with me (location):

In Case of Emergency (ICE) – who I want contacted (names & phone numbers):

In Case of Emergency (ICE) – who I do not want contacted (names):

Vehicle Descriptions

Truck (year, make, model, color, and license number):

Trailer (year, make, model, color, and license number):

Location where additional information, and keys, can be found at the trailhead:

TRIP SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Dates of event (identify travel days and days on trail, expected date/time to return home):

Location of event (include trailhead name):

Land managing agency or owner (include telephone number):

Directions to trailhead (possible alternate routes):

Group description (organization, size, key individuals):

Who is caring for stock at home (name and telephone number):

Daily schedule during trip including geographic areas if known and maps if available:

Equipment I will be carrying (survival, first aid, navigation, communications – including telephone numbers):

Communication contact times (i.e. +or- 5 minutes on the hour):

Additional information:

Front Country Photographs

Louise Walton sent in some “front country camping” photographs with descriptions. Just looking at these, I can smell the pine trees and firs and woodsmoke. I can taste the glass of wine while sitting around the fire, planning the next day’s ride. Thanks Louise, and as you noted, we are not done with this year’s horse camping yet. “Patience my friends; patience!”

Gypsy Meadows in September. Notice the bear box on the left with the cooler on top. It is our “Camping Castle” known affectionately as “CC”, in the background.



Sue enjoying a glass of wine at the fire ring at Heyburn South.

The horse corrals at Heyburn South.



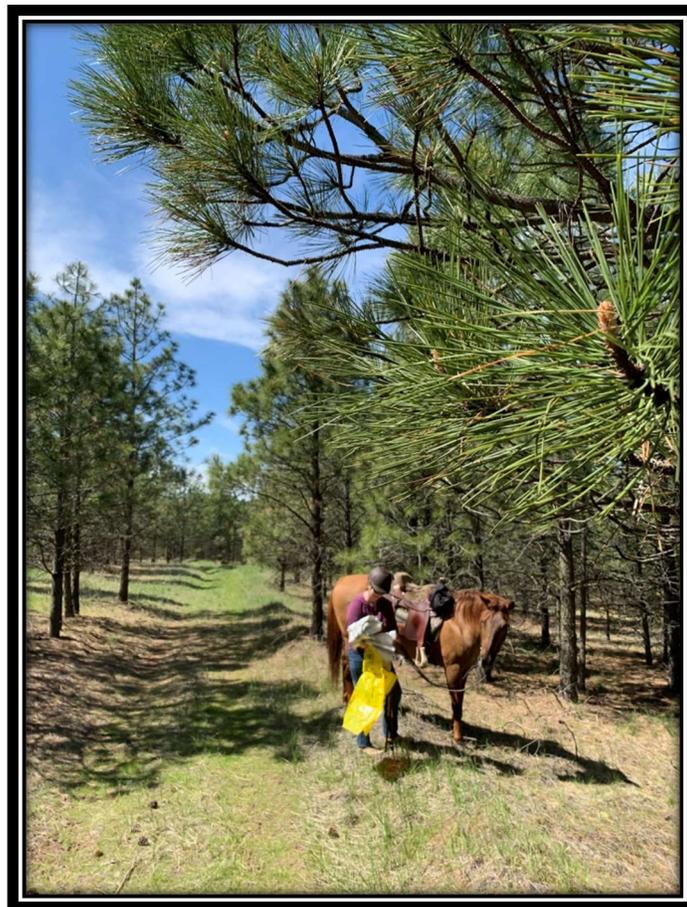
The outhouse at the Chiwawa Horse Camp North of Leavenworth. Prettiest and best maintained of all that we have had the pleasure of using.

My Covid Vacation

By Carol Klar

Our *required* vacation from Riverside State Park...

At the beginning of this Covid-19 situation, we were all scratching our heads about where to ride. After all, every good equestrian spends lots of time on the beautiful trails at **Riverside State Park**. With that being closed, we got resourceful. The 4 Ponderosa BCH families in our immediate neighborhood had the good fortune to be able to ride into RSP, after a 2-mile trek across forests and fields. This made a 5 mile Deep-Creek trail ride into a 9 mile ride with big climbs on either end. Our coming-out-of-winter horses got into shape pretty quickly. We also have a beautiful, large tract of private land on our street, and have enjoyed riding there with Ponderosa friends, who have come over to join us. In the picture below, Below, Patty Wright picks up some horse-eating trash out on the private Hayford neighborhood trail, using one of those indispensable LES SCHWAB bags! See, Ken was right! You should always carry one when you ride.



BLM areas and **County Conservation areas** are also open for riding, although any toilet facilities in these areas are closed. No big deal... That's why they make [easily-totable porta potties](#)... Every horse trailer should have one!

Several members have been riding at **Fishtrap BLM**. The beauty of this park is beyond description. If you haven't been there, you need to go. You can do an easy 5 mile loop, or ride the whole area for lots more miles. Last Friday, 12 equestrians, 2 bikers and 2 hikers were there, while I was riding. Nice to see folks taking the governor's order to exercise, seriously!

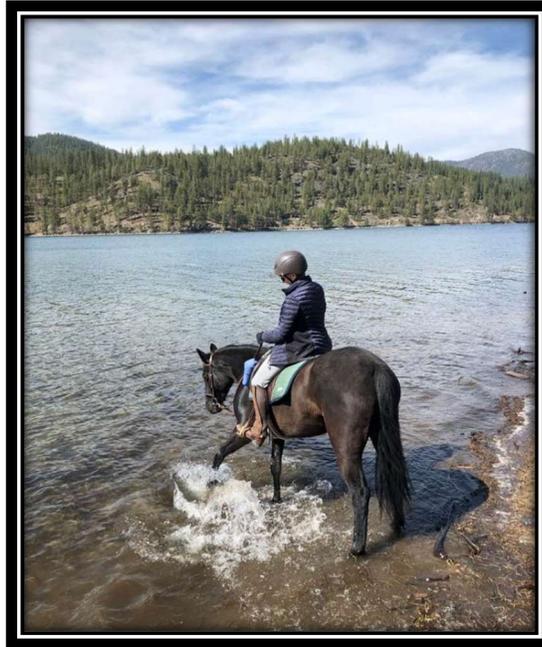


Above is Fishtrap Lake. Below is Cindy Miller with Cooper on Fishtrap trails.



The **County Conservation Areas** are real gems. A few favorites are Antoine Peak and James Slavin. McKenzie CA is also a lovely place, however given the elevation, may still be snowy/wet in the upper elevations. A less travelled Conservation Area is **McLellan CA**, located just across the river from Tumtum. This is a bit of a drive and only 430 acres, but well

worth the trip, for the peace and tranquility you will find there. In one area, you can ride down to the Spokane River! In April, we were delighted to find a BEACH, where we had never seen one before. Avista Power controls the river height, and we were lucky enough to time it right for some beach time! If you set off for this destination, beware that Google maps gets you close, but not to the parking area. Email me for details, if you are a first-timer. Below is Carol Klar with Onyx at McLellan CA.



By the time you read this article, we may have some good news about a future date to reopen Riverside State Park and the other popular State-run facilities such as Rustlers Gulch and Ancient Lakes. In the meantime, if you need any suggestions about where to ride, just drop me a note. Cklar32@gmail.com

Happy Trails!

Carol Klar

Trailer Toilets

Long long ago, in a town far far away (on the other side of the state), I learned about trailer toilets. Having a toilet in my trailer goes right along with cleaning up my horse's poop when I am at someone's barn, or at a trail head. You either put it back in your trailer to take back to your barn; or put it in a bucket in the back of your pickup (where you forget about it, and carry it around town for 3 weeks before remembering, finally, after a rainstorm, to take the "manure tea" out and dump it). Most barns will also have an official manure pile, and you can toss the manure there, too. It is poor barn manners to leave a pile in the parking lot, just as our "leave no trace" ethics expect manure to be cleaned up at trail heads.

Similarly, for humans, we need to think about our own waste when there are no toilets, or you're at a barn or event with minimal facilities. Or, like now, when the trail head toilets are locked, or are just scarier than normal with potential for viruses.

You have some options: If you have shavings on your trailer floor, just pretend you are a horse, and go. I have done this when desperate, but you still end up cleaning it out, so why not go one step better?

You can get a bucket toilet (see link in Carol's article above). If you already have a large bucket, you can buy a toilet seat cover for it at Walmart or outdoors stores. Line it with a heavy duty garbage sack (trust me, you should not use a light weight easily torn bag for this job). Fill it with a layer of any of the following: kitty litter, saw dust, shavings. Keep a bag or container of your filler material clean, and store it next to the bucket toilet with a trowel. Add more filler to the bucket toilet after each use to keep the smell and flies down. I generally bring the bucket home, bury the debris, then toss the garbage sack. Or just toss whole thing in the garbage.

Another option is to buy a real porta-potty, the kind that you add the RV liquid to, and buy the special RV toilet paper and all. There are small versions of these that would fit in a trailer tack room, and they are nice to use, but are stinky to dump and clean.

I keep my bucket toilet in my horse trailer tack room. If I am camping, I move it to the horse part of the trailer, and hook a bungee on the back door to hold it shut for privacy. This is my middle-of-the-night toilet, for when I don't want to walk to the rest room in the dark.

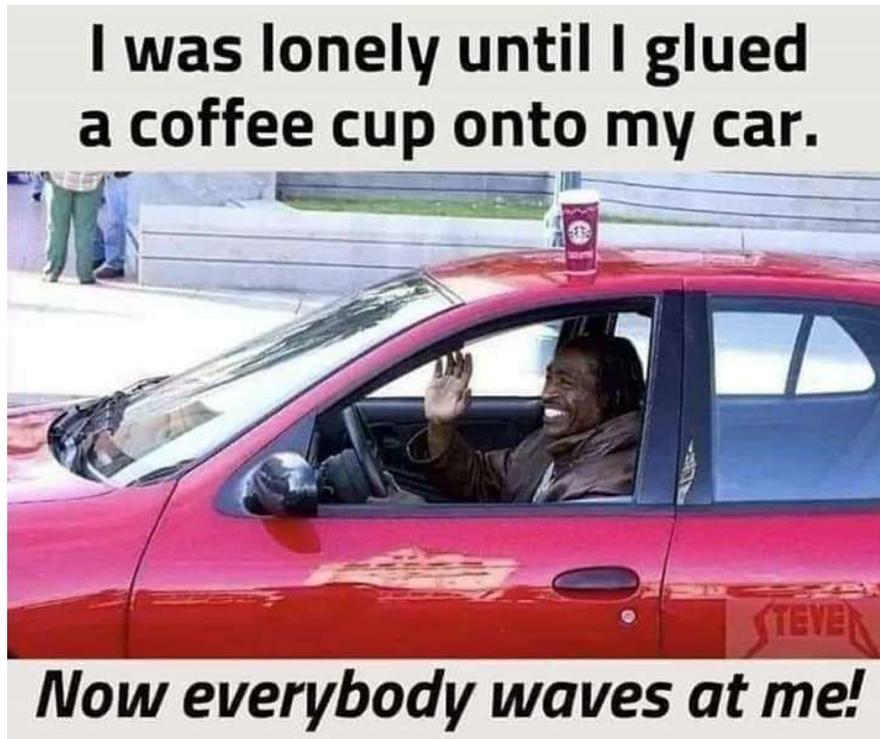
We have also used our "trailer toilet" at the house a few times when the well pump was out, and we had to limit flushing. It's really quite pleasant in the barn, out communing with nature, the barn cat, and his mouse friends.

Coloring Creation 4. By Michelle Eames



Tidbits from Tom

For those who are feeling lonely during this time of social distancing:



**Coloring Creation 5. By
Karen Rice's sister,
"Laura".**



By Cindy Miller

What Kind of Wildflower is that One? How many times are we on the trail and come across a field of dazzling wildflowers. It seems very seldom do we know what its common name is. Here are a few photos I have taken on trails at some of my favorite haunts – Riverside State Park, McLellan, Rustler’s Gulch, Fishtrap, Palisades, and Liberty Lake to name a few. I have had a wildflower ‘expert’ help me identify them. Next time I am riding with you, I expect you to know the name, and we’ll see if I remember! - 😊😊



STREAM VIOLET



SPRING BEAUTY



PHLOX



BALSAM ROOT



BLUEBELL



BUTTERCUP



GRASS
WIDOWS



TRILLIUM



GLACIER
LILIES



PAINTBRUSH



NINE LEAF
LOMATIUM
←



OREGON GRAPE



YELLOW BELL



THIMBLEBERRY



SHOOTING STAR,
other colors too –
white and yellow



WILD
GERANIUM
←



SERVICEBERRY
→



WILD HONEY
SUCKLE



BALL WATERLEAF



BITTERROOT



LUPINE AND BALSAMROOT

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-GROUP SPACE ADMIN	KEN CARMICHAEL	FINANCIAL REVIEW	OPEN
	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		

**Coloring Creation 6.
By Chuck and Karen's
grandson "Ty"**



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!