



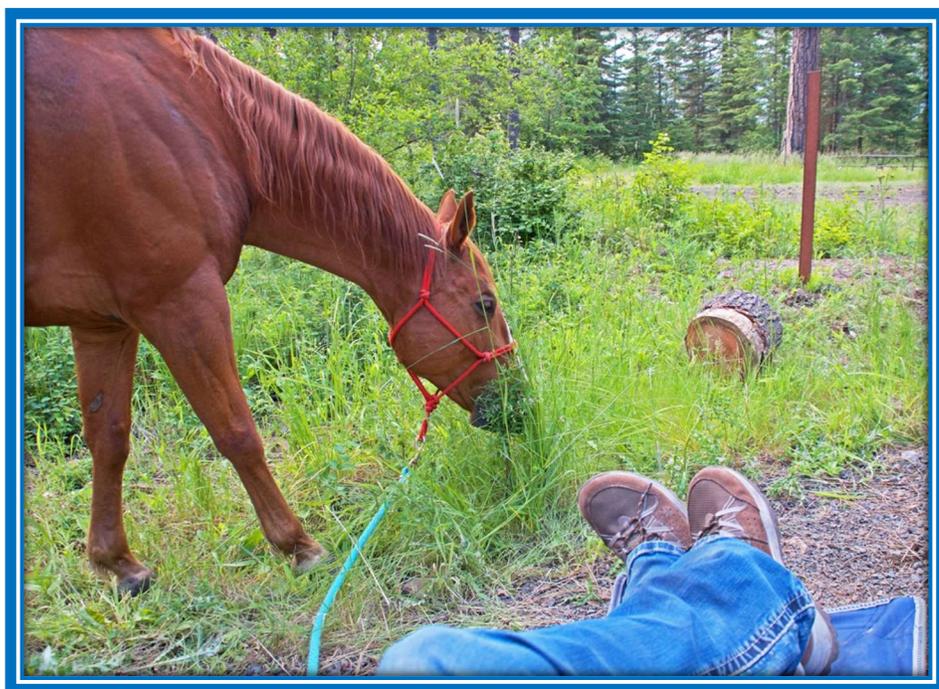
# PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
We Get it Done !

July 2020



<http://pbchw.com/>



CAMPING AND RELAXING WITH A  
HORSE. HEYBURN STATE PARK

(After the Ride is Done)

## CALENDAR

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

**July 7 PBCH Membership meeting: @ Ken and Patti's; 6pm. BYO lawn-chair.**

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

**August 4 - Membership meeting**

**September 1 – PBCH Membership Meeting**

*This issue focuses on riding in hot weather.*

*Our PBCH president, Tom Birge wanted you to know that we are having a meeting on July 7, and a PBCH ride on Saturday, July 11. See Ken Carmichael's emails, and the calendar for more information, or contact Ken directly.*

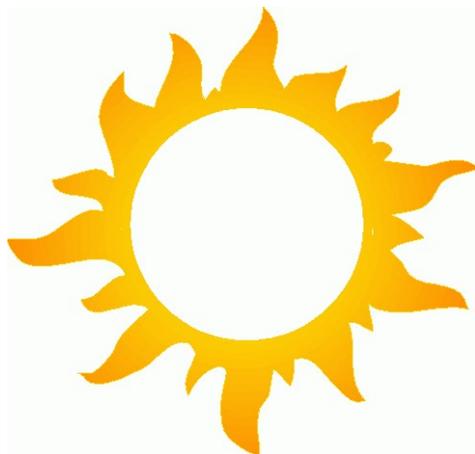
*Also, if anyone wants copies of the new maps for Riverside State Park, contact Tom. They are \$10. I got one, they are nice. I remember trying to learn the trails at the park long ago... a good map would have helped a lot! I'll probably still get lost there, even with a map, because that's the way I roll.*

*And, there are new BCH Washington calendars. Also \$10. Please contact Tom for a calendar. I understand some of our members are in the calendar.*

*Be safe!*

*Michelle Eames*

*PBCH Newsletter Editor*



## **DATES to REMEMBER 2020**

*All Dates and Events subject to Change or Cancellation.*

*Note that the August PBCH poker ride has been cancelled.*

**July 7** – PBCH Membership meeting: we would like to get together for a meeting on July 7 at 6:00 pm at Ken and Patti Carmichaels. There will be snacks served and a few things to discuss. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

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

**August 4** - Membership meeting

**September 1** – PBCH Membership Meeting

**September 18-20**- PBCH Ladies' Ancient Lakes Camping trip

**October 31** - 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Winery Ride and Halloween Costume/Prize Ride @ Zillah

(find more events here: [https://www.bchw.org/upcoming\\_events.php](https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php) )

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### **Poker Ride**

#### **By Ken Carmichael**

As everyone should know, it was necessary to cancel the 2020 Ponderosa Poker Ride. Although a great deal of work has gone into organizing the ride it was felt that we would not be able to comply with guidelines at the time of the event in August. We also do not want to take any chance of endangering our members or ride participants.

We thank all the members that have put in time on the event. We have also worked with people outside of PBCH to thank them for their support.

We will look at our options for 2021 and make use of the knowledge and materials that we have developed for a great event in 2021.

# **Director's Report**

**By Ken Carmichael**

BCHW continues to work for equestrian access to trails. Several committees are active including the Lands Committee and Legislative Committee. Although we needed to cancel the rendezvous, we are still holding out hope for the Wine Ride at the end of October.

It was necessary to cancel the March and June BCHW board meetings. However, most of the board got together on a virtual meeting on June 25. Although this could not be an official meeting, we were able to communicate several important issues. Hopefully, we will meet in September to take official actions.

Everyone should visit the NEW BCHW WEBSITE (<https://www.bchw.org/index.php>). Learn more about BCH, what is going on and how you can participate. Please pay attention to the Safety Guidelines. This a great addition to the website.

BCHW membership continues to be stable during this time of reduced activity. Ponderosa chapter has 14 members that are new in 2020. We are all anxious to have additional events where we can meet these members and they can become active.

BCHW made an official statement concerning Electronic Bikes on BLM land. I will have that included in this newsletter. This is important to PBCH members because of the extensive BLM land in this area.

We are analyzing our participation in the Northwest Horse Source Magazine. This is a form of printed publicity for BCH.

A major question is the future of the Trailhead News (THN). It has turned into a great publication but is expensive to produce. We want to keep it at 6 issues a year but are considering making four of them electronic only and two key issues would still be print copies. Of course, a key question is what will be the readership of an electronic publication. Are people more likely to read a hard copy? Now it costs about \$36,000 per year to produce or about \$4.25 each. The alternative could cut our costs in half. I will be interested in hearing your comments.

The question concerning insurance coverage for COVID related claims came up. Infectious diseases are specifically excluded from the policy. If the members are attending activities that involve campouts, events, etc. then they do so at their own risk, and they should keep the Governor's mandates and recommendations in mind. Riding horses pretty much automatically distances you by 6 feet, but if you are congregating around campfires, food, and potlucks then this increases your exposure.

As chairman of the BCHW Governance and Bylaws Committee I continue to work on several projects. The primary one is revision of the BCHW bylaws. I also stay active as a member of the Executive Advisory Council that addresses issues as they come up between board meetings.

Of course, we are all anxious to return to normal as soon as possible. However, BCH will continue to safeguard our members wherever possible using masks, social distancing and cancelling events where necessary.



**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON**  
**PO Box 1132**  
**ELLENSBURG, WA 98926**  
**WWW.BCHW.ORG**

RIN 1004-AE72

June 9, 2020

Secretary Bernhardt,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule change that addresses the categorization and management of the use of electric motorized bicycles (e-bikes) on BLM administered lands.

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), a 501(c)3 service organization was founded in 1977 with the mission to keep trails open and accessible for pack and saddle stock. As the organization has grown and developed our vision has expanded to include and collaborate with other trail user groups, including hikers and the mountain bike community. While we do advocate for multiple use on public lands, the proposed rule change to allow e-bikes to access non-motorized trails is of great concern to BCHW and its members for a number of reasons, including the following:

An electric motor is a motor, battery operated notwithstanding. We know that the battery operated technology in transportation (bikes, trikes, boards, ATV's and cars) will continue to develop. Putting this rule into place will effectively re-categorize the e-bike and carries the possibility of widening the definition to other forms of recreational transport. Motorized transport should continue to be used on roads, trails, or paths that are designated specifically for motorized use.

Users of non-motorized trails are typically looking for a more low-key and slower experience while they are recreating. It is a serious incongruity to consider that at class 2 throttle e-bike that does not require the user to pedal would be considered to be an appropriate form of recreation on a non-motorized trail.

The maximum speed that can be achieved and the relative silence of class 1, 2 and 3 e-bikes pose a considerable risk of conflict between user groups. Most soft surface single track trails were not constructed, nor are they maintained for use at speeds of 20 mph or more. Limited sight distances on narrow trails could result in a serious incident if all users are not fully cognizant of the surroundings and of other trail users. The result of this could be that hikers and equestrians would avoid trails that they would normally use if there was a potential risk of conflict or safety hazard. The proposed rule does not offer any mitigation for this concern.

BCHW supports expanding recreational opportunities on our public lands and e-bikes should have a place. However, SO 3376 Aug 29, 2019 regarding e-bike use on BLM land circumvented the process of public engagement and early public input that should have taken place prior to that announcement. The BLM needs to ensure that public engagement occurs prior to rulemaking and that adequate opportunity for the public input is provided prior to any decision. The proposed rule should be analyzed for the social and physical impact via the National Environmental Policy Act before issuing a Final Rule.

Thank you for your consideration,

Public Lands Chairman

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

public\_lands@bchw.org

***Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW), is a 501 (c) (3) organization with 33 chapters across the state dedicated to: keeping trails open for all users; educating horse users in Leave-No-Trace practices; and providing volunteer service to resource agencies.***

## Riding in Hot Weather

By Michelle Eames

I found this great link and article on Facebook that recommended not riding horses if the air temp in Fahrenheit, plus relative humidity, adds up to 130 or greater. But I forgot to save the link.

Luckily, I found this other article that has more detail:

<https://extension.umn.edu/horse-care-and-management/caring-horses-during-hot-weather#:~:text=If%20you%20must%20ride%20a,regain%20a%20normal%20breathing%20rate.>

It also says that if air temp plus percent humidity is 130 or less, horses can cool themselves, but not so much at higher numbers. Luckily, here in Spokane, we don't often hit those levels. For example, On June 25, a very warm Thursday, the air temp was 84, and the humidity was 30, totalling 114. That felt very hot, but per the guidance it was safe for riding. June 28 was predicted to be 68 degrees, and 40 percent humidity, for a total of 108. That was a very pleasant riding day.

Luckily, Spokane tends to be dry when temperatures are high. However, I have my own rule of thumb that if its over 90, its just darn hot and I don't ride. During our hot breaks, I ride early or late, during the cool of the day.

The linked article goes further to describe how to cool a horse off, generally hosing him off. Ice water if fine, too. On hot days I carry water for me, and if I am trailering I carry water for my horse. A large sponge and a bucket allows you to sponge off the horse if you don't have a water hose nearby.

If you have a thin, fine-bodied arab, your horse may handle heat better than my thick draft pony. Know your horse.

Of course, those hot days are great for a calm shady ride on the way to a river or a lake.

Really hot days are great for letting the horses graze, and watching Netflix movies in my air-conditioned house. It's a great opportunity to get a horse used to a bath from a hose, or for setting a sprinkler over the paddock. One of my previous horses, Kodo, would come up to us when he saw us with a hose on a hot day, and ask for a spray on his neck and shoulders. He would turn in front of the hose to get both sides wet until he was cooled off, then walk away.



## Be Cool!

With the dog days of summer heading our way, take your horse for a swim in the Spokane River or other fun water spot. The closest horse-friendly water entry would be at Riverside State Park. This picture is taken from the trail that is just a bit south of the arena at the Equestrian Park. River access is good, but gets deep fairly fast. For details on access location, email me: [cklar32@gmail.com](mailto:cklar32@gmail.com)



*Nothing better than a good dunking and floating around in a lovely lake when the weather is hot hot hot! My biggest decision was whether or not my helmet was going to save me or drown me!*

By Louise Walton.



## **Fishtrap Lake Trail Work Party**

**By Ken Carmichael**

On Tuesday, June 9 we cleared the down trees from the Fishtrap Lake Trail. These trees came down during winter storms.

Patti and I had ridden the trails to identify the location of down trees, so we knew where to go and the amount of work we faced. On the day of the work party Doug Bailey, Chuck Rice, Doug Frederick and I met at the southern trailhead. BLM gave us permission to drive on the two track roads. This meant we only had to carry chainsaws a short distance. Trees down on two trail trails were cleared for easy access for everyone and emergency vehicles. We were able to fit the work party in between rainstorms and at a time that the vehicle was allowed on the two-track trail.

Washington Trails Association (WTA) was the lead organization over several years to build the trail. This is a multiuse trail enjoyed by hikers, bikes and equestrians.

BCH is in the planning stages of adding a 6-foot gate where now there is only a 3-foot gate. This will make for easier passage with the horses.

All the BLM properties offer great riding opportunities.



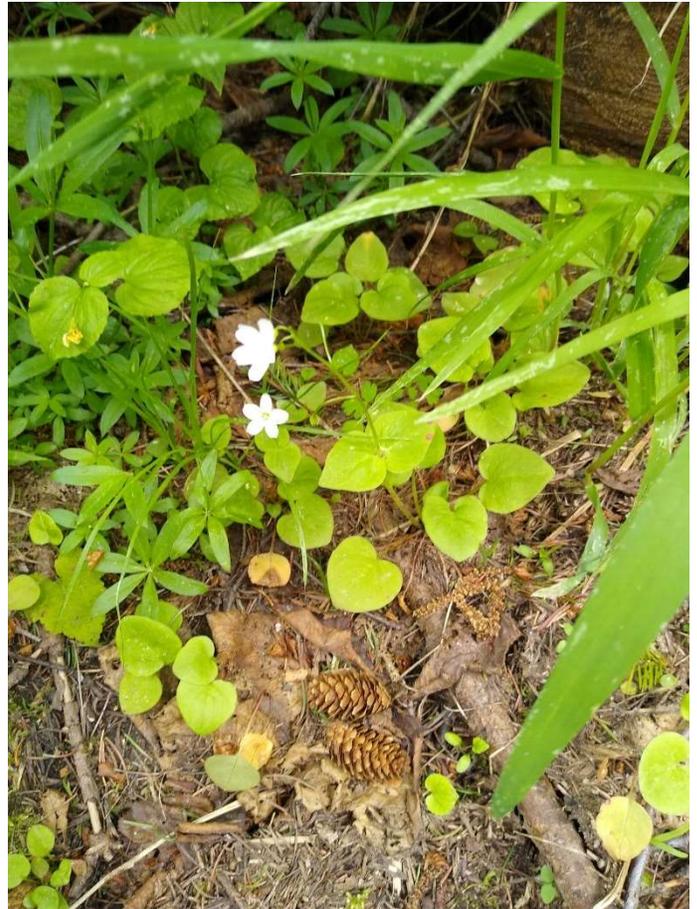
## Mt. Spokane State Park Ride

By Ken Carmichael

On Saturday, July 11 we will have a chapter ride at Mt. Spokane State Park. The specifics are included in this newsletter, as follows. We want everyone to be safe so please respect each other's space and practice social distancing.

Mt. Spokane will be a great place to ride when it is hotter at lower elevations.

[Editors note: *I was recently hiking at Mt Spokane with my family; the wildflowers are AMAZING. I hope they are still blooming when you get there! Like the cute little flower below, whose leaves look rather like miners' lettuce. Maybe it is miners' lettuce! But it looks a little different than the miners' lettuce at my house. Botany. Don't you love it!*]



# EVENT DESCRIPTION

EVENT (RIDE, WORK PARTY, SEMINAR, CLINIC, ETC.): Day ride

DATES/START TIME: Saturday, July 11, Feet in stirrups 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Mt Spokane State Park

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION (NAME, EMAIL & TELEPHONE): Ken or Patti Carmichael 509-466-2225 or [kcarmichael2225@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmichael2225@gmail.com).

PERMITS/RESTRICTIONS/CERTIFIED HAY REQUIREMENTS: Discover Pass required

FACILITIES/WATER/FEED: Restroom at trailhead

EVENT DESCRIPTION (TRAIL DESCRIPTION, LENGTH, DIFFICULTIES, TYPE WORK, TYPE TRAINING, ETC.): Will ride the cross country ski course. Generally two track with moderate elevation change. Water crossing would be puddles. May encounter bikes. Plan on riding 4 hours.

SPECIAL FEATURES (POTLUCK, ENTERTAINMENT, SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, ETC.): Bring your own lunch. Recommend that you bring bug spray for you and horse.

GENERAL DIRECTION AND DISTANCE FROM SPOKANE: Northwest of Spokane. It is about 38 miles and an hour from our house.

ROAD CONDITIONS: Significant climb after entering park. All paved.

DIRECTIONS TO EVENT OR RENDEZVOUS POINT: North on Highway 2 (Newport Highway) to Highway 206 (E Mt. Spokane Park Dr., traffic light). Right (east) on Highway 206. This takes you into park. Go past hairpin turn where there is paved parking. At large gravel parking lot on right go through this parking lot and take right at the "Y" into a secondary parking lot (Silkirk lot).

RSVP REQUIREMENTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION: No requirement to RSVP but if bad weather or other changes will only contact those that RSVP.

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE A "PERSONAL EMERGENCY PLAN" AND LEAVE IT WITH PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT. ALSO, YOU SHOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE FIRST AIDE, SURVIVAL, NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Liability Releases will be signed at the trailhead
- Please practice Leave No Trace
- Participants under 18, and not accompanied by a parent or guardian, must have a "Permission to Treat" Statement

## Greetings Ponderosa Friends,

I'm happy to report that the Trail Obstacle Clinic at Rendezvous Ranch was well attended. Everyone came in healthy and went home healthy! In our Covid-19 world, this is always a good thing. The clinic provided a challenging and rewarding experience for all. Everyone made substantial progress, and took home new skills!!! I personally used the skills acquired in a recent riding trip on the challenging trails at Heyburn State Park. Weather cooperated and we were fortunate to spend a few days in a beautiful place! Here are just a few pictures from the clinic. There are several others on the Ponderosa Facebook page. Pictured in order: Doug Bailey, Carol Klar, Heather Trautman, Karen Rice.

Looking forward to more group experiences!

Carol Klar, Ponderosa BCH Education Coordinator







***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!***

## 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		