



# PONDEROSA

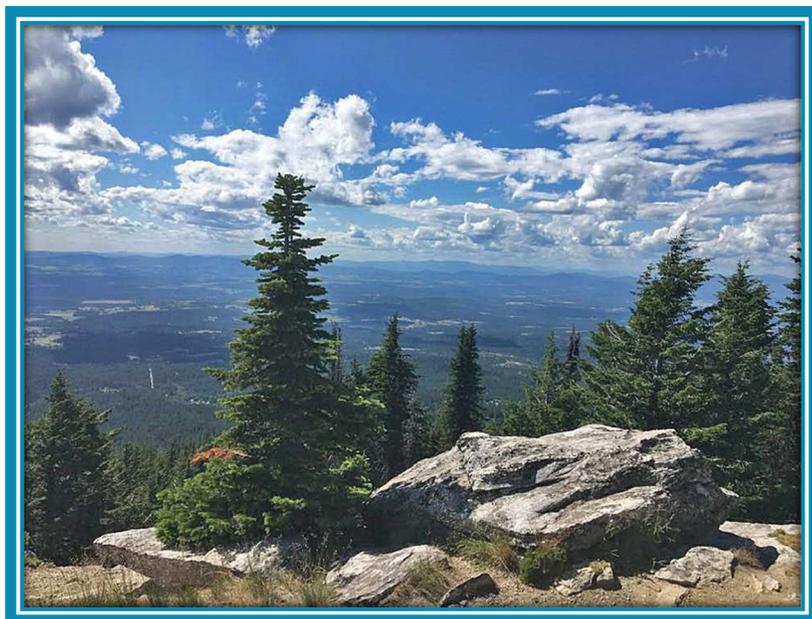


Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
We Get it Done !

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August 2020

<http://pbchw.com/>



VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT OF  
MT. SPOKANE

## CALENDAR

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

**August 4 - Membership meeting @ Ken and Patti's; 6pm. BYO lawn-chair and Mask.**

**September 1 – PBCH Membership Meeting**

## **July Membership Meeting**

**By Ken Carmichael**

After not meeting for several months, the Ponderosa held a July Membership Meeting. To safeguard our members, everyone was required to wear face masks and we practiced social distancing. Because the weather was threatening, we moved the meeting into the garage. I moved all the vehicles out and we left all the garage doors open. It seemed to work for a small group.

We were able to discuss the poker ride (see other article). Also, Tom was highly successful selling the Riverside State Park maps and the BCHW calendars. If you want either of these, please contact Tom. Both are great products. Besides, the map supports work in the park and the calendar supports work by BCHW.

We were able to discuss several issues for the chapter and what is happening with BCHW. Since we have not been able to hold BCHW board meetings, much of our work is being done by conference calls and email. Other articles and regular emails explain what is happening.



## **Volunteer Hours Update**

**By Carol Klar**

Volunteer Hours – Q3 data is due to our state office on 7/31. This should include June and July data. If you did not submit a report for Q2 (March, April, May), this can be included as well. Please have your input to me by 7/29. [Cklar32@gmail.com](mailto:Cklar32@gmail.com). Thanks to those who have already submitted your hours.



## **DATES to REMEMBER 2020**

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

**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**

It was necessary to cancel the 2020 Poker Ride, but we are now well on our way for planning Poker Ride 2021.

At the July membership meeting, we selected the July 10-11, 2021, weekend as the date. I have cleared this with State Parks and completed the Public Use Permit Application.

After the meeting, ideas started to come up about how we could expand on the Poker Ride. This was mulled around by several members trying to develop the best ideas that we feel we can comfortably and effectively accomplish. Following is what we came up with as a draft plan.

Saturday, July 10, hold a fun play day – This will be open to the public giving us the opportunity to promote the equestrian area, the work we have done on the trail obstacle course and the arena and promote the poker ride. Also have lots of fun.

Sunday, July 11, hold the Poker Ride – Taking advantage of the additional promotion we will get from the fun play day. People coming from a distance can also travel on Saturday and still get home Sunday afternoon and night. We will operate the Poker Ride just as we had planned for 2020.

All plans are very preliminary and we will be considering several ideas to enhance the events. It will be a big weekend for the chapter so we will be including all members and additional help.

## **Riverside State Park Work Projects**

**By Ken Carmichael**

At the July membership meeting, we discussed some work projects that need to be done in Riverside State Park. In the process we determined what we need to do to accomplish the projects and formed committees to start the projects. This is a brief summary of what is planned:

- TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE – Repair obstacles that are showing wear. We hope to get that done this fall. Build new obstacles. Several interesting obstacles are being identified. Placement of the obstacles will probably be in the spring.
- ARENA – It has been several years since the area was built and stained. We want to put on a new coat of stain this fall.
- CAMPGROUND CORRALS – Most of the campsites have a single 16X16 corral. We are identifying where we can most effectively install additional corrals and possibly a highline.
- TRAIL CLEARING – It is always helpful to go through the equestrian area and clear overhanging limbs.

Several things need to take place prior to a “work party” for any of these projects:

- Identify the work to be done, materials and construction
- Cost estimates
- Parks approval and assistance where required
- Materials/tools
- Funding
- Work Parties

This is a wonderful equestrian venue, but it requires maintenance and improvements. We have started the process but always need more help. We are starting to publicize the projects to gather additional help, ideas and funding. If you have an interest in any of these projects, please get involved.

## Trail Obstacle Course at Riverside

By Patti Carmichael

At the July meeting, a committee was formed to investigate, plan and expedite repairs and enhancement of the Trail Obstacle Course at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area. Committee members are Patti Carmichael, Patty Wright, Linda White, Carol Klar, and Cindy Miller.



On Tuesday, July 21, the committee met at Riverside and walked through the obstacle course inspecting each feature and discussing the repairs needed. The bridge is the feature with the most need for repair, and a redesign of the Up/Down Tire is being discussed.

The project will be done in two phases. The first phase will entail the needed repairs. Documentation is being prepared and supply lists generated. We will be asking for volunteers to help with the “heavy lifting” and will need one or two people with some carpentry skills. Projected completion time is end of September.

Phase 2 will be in 2021 when we install some new obstacles! More on that later.

*Photos of Carol Klar and PG on the tire obstacle, back when it was full of gravel.*



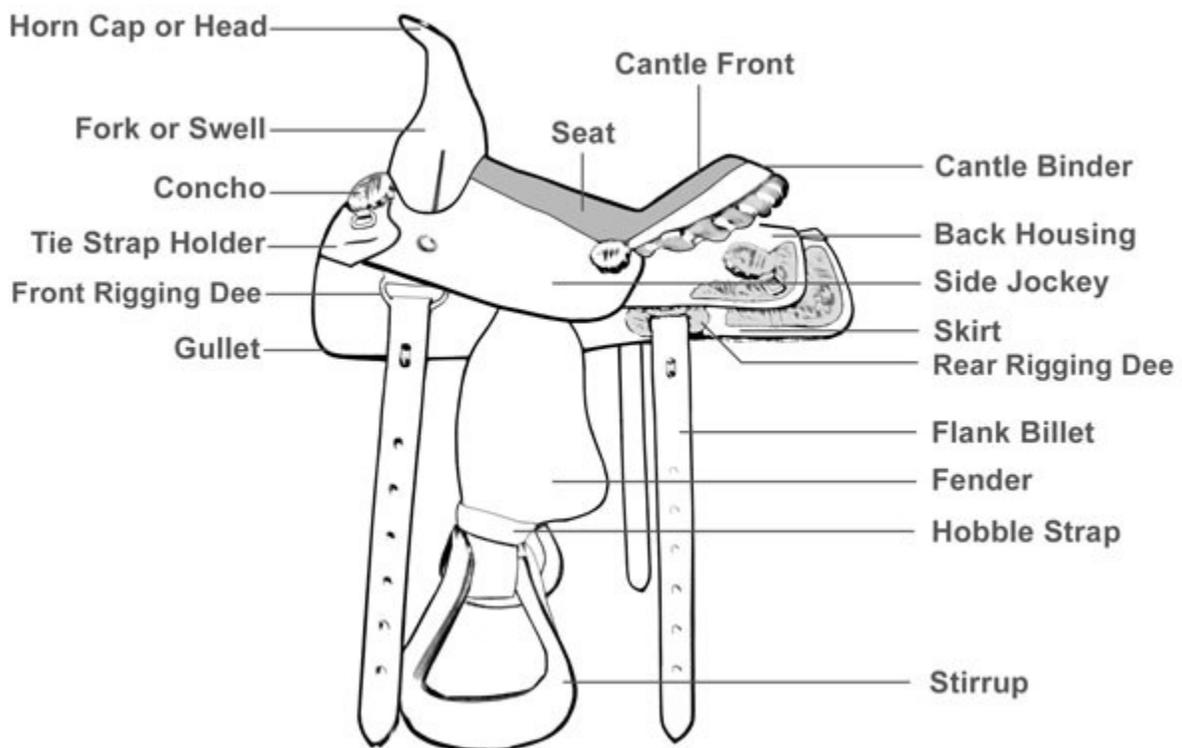
## Education Update

By Carol Klar

Greetings Ponderosa Friends,

I'd like to hear your requests for educational topics. Some that I have picked up casually are listed below, and I'm sure there are others to add. Please let me know! Cklar32@gmail.com

- Saddle fitting – the main points
- Using Hoof Boots – how to use them and what do they cost
- How and Why on Trail Tracking apps
- Coding your volunteer hours worksheets



<https://blog.bigdweb.com/webinar-series-western-saddle-fitting/>

# Topographic Maps

By Michelle Eames

*My favorite way to avoid getting lost on the trail is to go with someone who knows the trail. My friends have also taught me to use a navigation app on my phone, sometimes with mixed success depending on my phone's attitude that day, and whether or not I remembered to charge it before the ride. But I often have a paper map as a back up. I like maps, my husband likes maps, and we actually have quite a collection. I know how to read a contour map, and it is useful to know where the steep trails are, versus the more gradual trails. It helps with ride planning, and if you do get misplaced in space and time out on the trail, it can help you figure out where the major landmarks are, to hone in on your actual location.*

*I have blatantly copied some background about maps and contour lines from the REI website (<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/topo-maps-how-to-use.html>).*

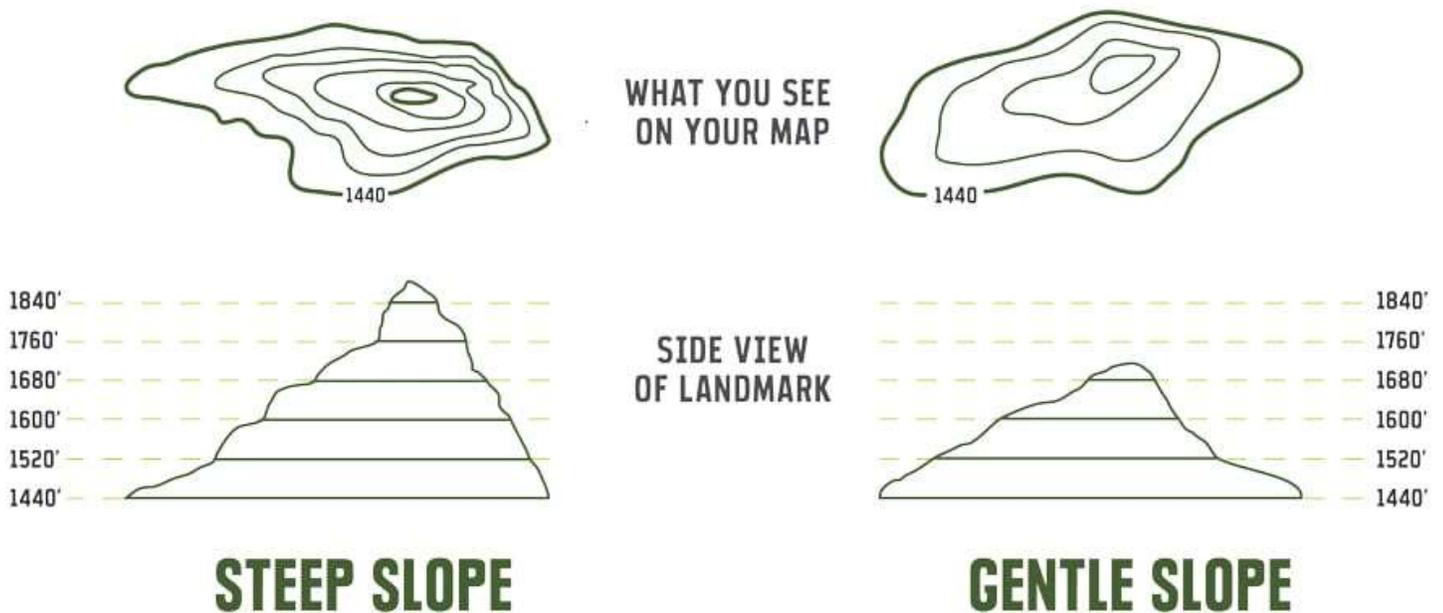
*These diagrams are just to get you started. Take a look, and then pull out a map, like the new Riverside State Park map, to get a feel for reading a topographic map in an area you know.*

*Please go to the REI website for more information and how-to videos. Also note that in the field, to use a good map, you also need a good compass.*

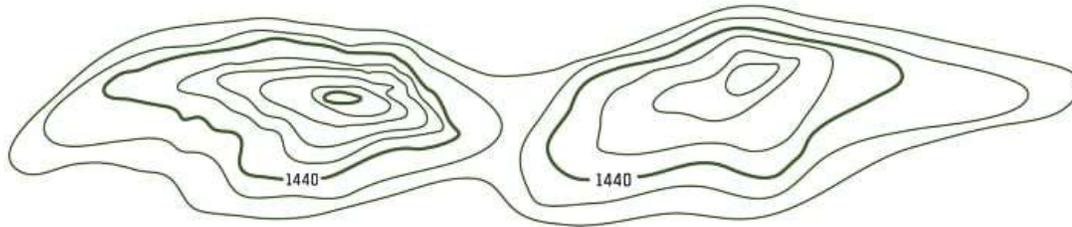
## How Contour Lines Describe Terrain

Simple trail maps are useful for trip planning but NOT for navigation in the field. Topographic maps go further, giving you the power to visualize three-dimensional terrain from a flat piece of paper. The feature that makes this possible is contour lines:

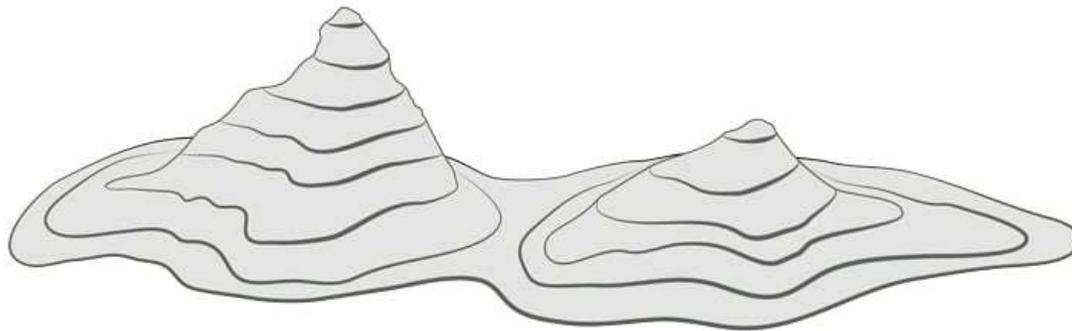
**Contour lines indicate the steepness of terrain.** Contour lines connect points that share the same elevation: Where they're close together (they never intersect), elevation is changing rapidly in short distance and the terrain is steep. Where contour lines are wide apart, elevation is changing slowly, indicating a gentle slope.



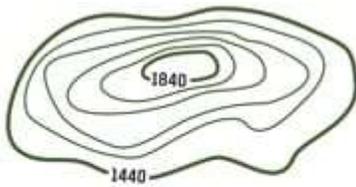
**Contour lines also indicate the shape of the terrain.** Roughly concentric circles are probably showing you a peak, and areas between peaks are passes. Studying a topo map of a familiar area is a great way to learn how to match terrain features with the contour lines on a map.



**WHAT YOU SEE  
ON YOUR MAP**



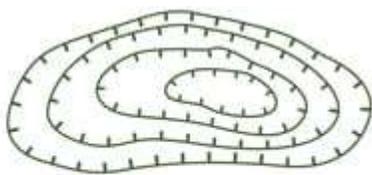
**3-D VIEW  
OF LANDMARK**



**CONTOUR INTERVAL, 80ft**

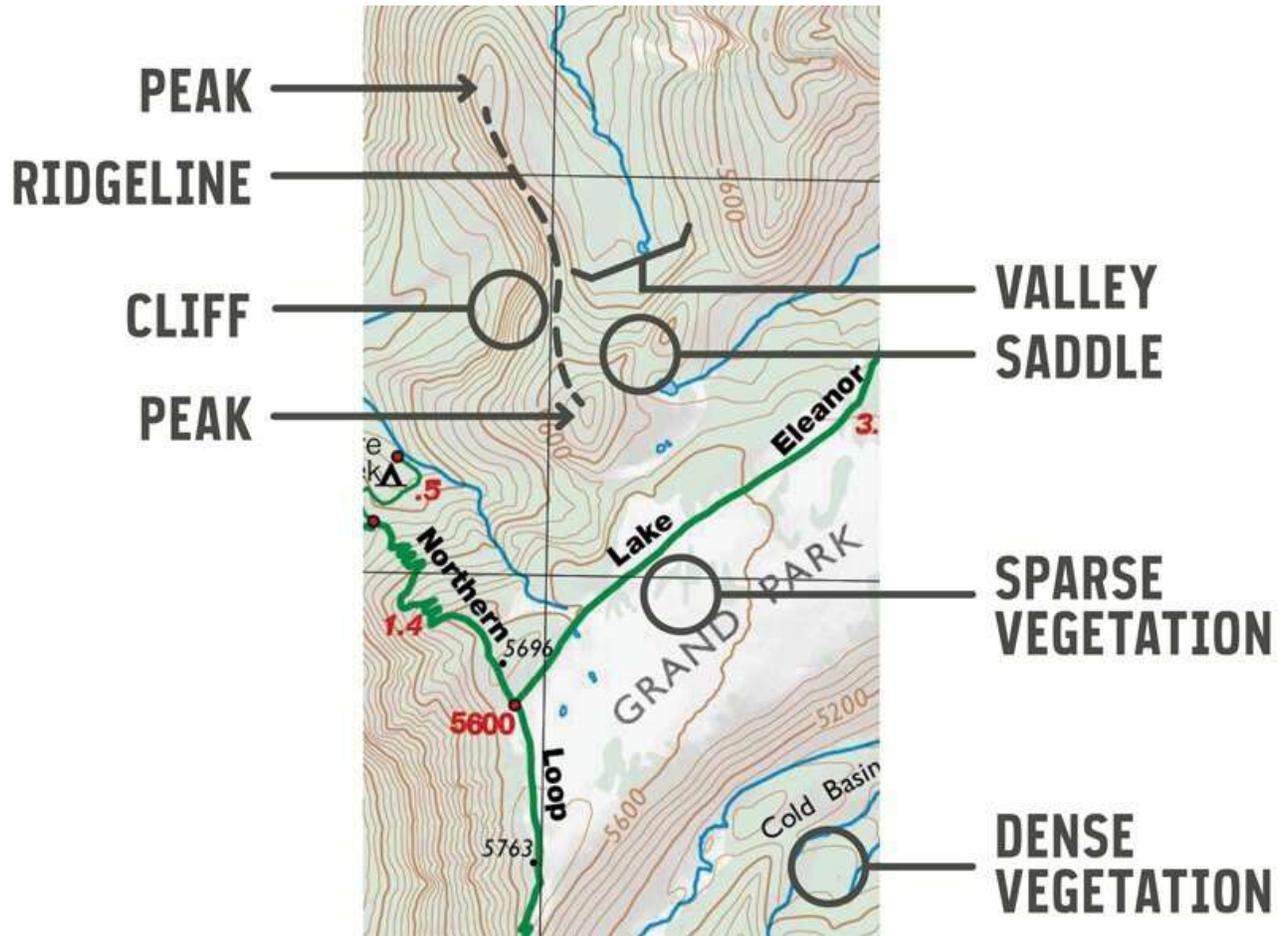
**Index contour lines:** Every fifth contour line is a thicker, “index” line. At some point along that line, its exact elevation is listed.

**Contour interval:** The change in elevation from one contour line to the next is always the same within the same map. Many maps have either a 40- or 80-foot contour interval: An 80-foot interval simply means that each contour line is 80 vertical feet away from the next closest line. You find the contour interval for your map in its legend.



**DEPRESSION**

**Every once in a while, a circle indicates a depression rather than a peak.** A circle with tick marks inside it indicates a depression, rather than a peak. You should also see elevations decreasing as you get near the depression



## **Mt. Spokane Ride**

**By Ken Carmichael**

On Saturday, July 11, six of us met on Mt. Spokane for a great ride. Patti and I led the ride on the Nordic Trails. Steve Moore, Melissa Halpin, Patty Wright and her daughter joined us.

This is a good riding area for a group. The trails are wide for easy conversation. It is relatively level, especially since it is on Mt. Spokane, and the trails are well

marked. On top of this, being on the mountain is a great place for a hot summer day. Mt. Spokane State Park provides many riding opportunities with varying degrees of difficulty and length.

We had a route planned out anticipating how long it would take to ride the trail. However, it just kept getting more fun. There are several off shoots of trails allowing us to extend our ride as we enjoyed the good weather and trails.

It is always fun to ride a good horse, on good trails in good company.



This was just one of the trail rides for the chapter. Anyone can lead a ride in an area you are familiar with. You can announce it through the newsletter or the group email address. Those joining BCH to find new trails should take advantage of these opportunities.

## **Meeting Dogs on the Trail**

**By Ken Carmichael**

First off, this is an opinion article. I do not expect everyone to agree with me or follow what I do. However, I do feel that everyone should know what they are going to do in these circumstances.

Recently Patti and I met two, large loose dogs on the trail that were not under control. It made me think more about exactly what to do in this situation. This is what I think should happen when a dog is spotted on the trail:

- Holler “HORSES” to alert the dog owner that they are meeting horses
- Holler “DOGS” to alert your riding companions that there are dogs on the trail
- Stop, allowing the dog owner an opportunity to control their dogs
- Once the dogs are controlled move on without delay. Delay simply provides additional opportunity for problems with the dogs.
- Thank the dog owner for controlling their dogs

If the dog owner cannot control the dogs do this:

- Turn your horse to face the dogs
- If necessary, take a few short steps toward the dogs, possibly discouraging them
- Turn your horse to continue to face the dogs. I do this because the horse is more comfortable if he can see the danger. I can also keep better track of the dog. Also, the horse’s rear legs are vulnerable to dog bites. He may not kick until it is too late and there is leg damage.
- If I cannot see the dog’s ears in front of the horse this means that he is too close. I will move the horse over the dog.

We need to be aware of the leash laws where we ride. Remember, this applies to us taking dogs with us. It is especially a bad idea on group rides. A dog darting in and out of the horse line can cause a problem. It also is an issue when meeting others on the trail.

Dog owners will tell us many things:

- My dog has never seen a horse before – that is not good news
- My dog is friendly or familiar with horses – That is not much comfort when the dog is encountering a strange horse
- If your horse kicks the dog, then the dog deserves it – Their dog’s health is not my concern. I do not want my horses to learn that kicking a dog is acceptable, or necessary.

We need to be friendly but firm when meeting dogs on the trail. It requires shortening up on the reins and being prepared for the unexpected so that we can react for our own, and the horse’s, safety.



*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!*

**Don't stop reading here, look below for all kinds of ways to help PBCH.**

**What are your skills?**

**I bet we can use them.**

## 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		