



# PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
We Get it Done !

November 2020



<http://pbchw.com/>



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!

## CALENDAR

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

**No meeting November 3: Remember to Vote!**

With this being Thanksgiving month I would like to give a big

## **Thank You**

for those that belong to our chapter and all the volunteer work that is done.

There are so many opportunities to help out and so many of you have stepped up to help out in so many ways.

Without all of your support the things that we do would be impossible.

Please also acknowledge our new members:

- Larry and Linda Grinstead
- Bill and Mary Bennett

Thank You again!

Tom Birge President

*We put together this calendar for some planned events. Of course, right now everything is subject to change, but it gives us a start. If you have any suggestions or comments, let me know. All input is welcome. Contact [tjbirge@msn.com](mailto:tjbirge@msn.com)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PONDEROSA BCHW

For 2021

**NOTE : There are several work parties to be scheduled**

#### JANUARY:

5<sup>TH</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program:**

#### FEBRUARY:

2<sup>nd</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program:**

28<sup>th</sup> Volunteer hours

28<sup>th</sup> BCHW calendar pictures due

#### MARCH:

2<sup>nd</sup>- Membership meeting

**Program:**

**BCHW Rendezvous Ellensburg ?**

#### APRIL:

6<sup>th</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program:**

9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Ladies campout Ancient Lakes

#### MAY:

4<sup>th</sup>- Membership meet

**Program:**

31<sup>st</sup> volunteer hours

**Someone Host a Ride!!!!**

#### JUNE:

1<sup>st</sup> – Membership meeting

**\_Program:**

**Someone Host a Ride!!!!**

#### JULY:

6<sup>th</sup> – Membership meeting

Open House/Poker ride rehearsal

10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Open House/Poker ride

31<sup>st</sup> – Volunteer Hours

**Someone Host a Ride!!!!**

#### AUGUST:

3<sup>rd</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program - Location -**

**Someone Host a Ride!!!!**

#### SEPTEMBER:

7<sup>th</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program:**

10<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Hours preliminary hours

30<sup>TH</sup> – Volunteer hours final report due

#### OCTOBER:

1<sup>st</sup> weekend Escure Ride

5<sup>th</sup> - Membership meeting – Elections

**Program:**

**30<sup>th</sup> – BCHW Wine Ride at Zillah**

#### NOVEMBER:

2<sup>nd</sup> - Membership meeting

**Program -**

#### DECEMBER:

7<sup>th</sup> - Membership meeting

Catered Christmas dinner ??

# Keeping Trails Open

## By Ken Carmichael

As I ride, as with many of us, I meet people using our public lands for different reasons. I enjoy stopping and talking with them. This week it was an older fellow on an E-bike, and I got to ask him many questions about his experiences. One thing I found was that he was very interested and concerned about the preservation of our land. Of course, this put us on the same wavelength.

One aspect of the talk was that every recreational discipline has its “good guys and bad guys” that we must deal with and sometimes bear the consequences of. We talked about how we can influence other people.

We agreed that the organized recreational groups are the best resource for that whether it be bikes, horses, mountain climbing, skiing, ORV or hiking. And the list goes on. We are the ones with the resources to obtain the information and get it out to our members.

We also agreed that the difficult job is influencing people that are not members of our groups. While we would like to influence the behavior of other recreational disciplines, we must start in our own backyard. How can we influence equestrian behavior outside of BCH membership? Some ideas include:

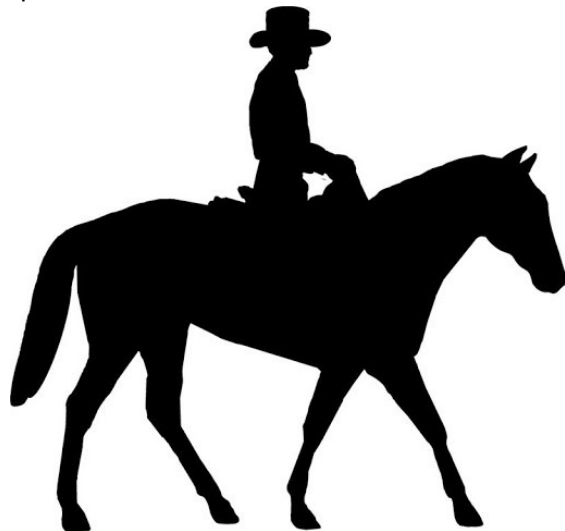
- Increase BCH membership
- Write articles for equestrian publications
- Conduct educational events for the equestrian public
- Participate at events sponsored by others with our message
- Use the LNT information, including brochures
- Talk to equestrians at trailheads and on the trail about LNT
- Practice what we preach, set the example
- Assist land managers with their education programs
- Be a guest speaker at other equestrian group meetings

Equestrians do not want to be the subject of criticism from land managers and other users. Once there is a bullseye on your group because of justifiable criticism it is very difficult to remove. An example: Riverside State Park manager notified me that there are complaints about manure left on asphalt trailheads and asked if I can help. I write articles for the Horse Previews magazine. I can help there. We can also support signs at trailheads.

My point is that BCH has a great education program. We are also highly regarded and can influence others. Let us use this capability to influence others and keep the good name of equestrians.



Images from clipart-library.com



## **Escure Ranch Improvements**

**By Ken Carmichael**

The Escure Ranch, south of Sprague, is a great place to ride and camp. It has some wonderful facilities, but we want to make more improvements. Now there is horse water, two corrals, highlines, restroom and flat camping area. This supports thousands of acres for riding. Patti and I figure that there are 6 rides we can take out of the trailhead without duplicating any ride. This is a multi-use area for equestrians, hikers, bikers, fishermen and hunters.

The chapter approved going ahead with a proposal to BLM. This includes 8 corrals, 6 picnic tables and 6 fire rings in the equestrian camp area. There is no guaranty that we will get everything but there is great support for our proposal. Of course, funding is an important part of any project. We will be working on that.

One issue with the Escure Ranch is the 2.3-mile driveway into the trailhead. It has deep ruts. I have talked to BLM about this and they are in total support for improving the road. The Congress has approved the Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA) which provides \$9.5 billion for improvements on federal land of deferred maintenance. The road qualifies for these funds and is being proposed by BLM.

We will do everything we can to support all the improvements at the Escure Ranch.

Patti and I rode at the Escure for four days at the beginning of October. We plan camp trips each spring and fall at Escure. Watch for these events in the newsletter.





## Education Event on October 10, 2020

On October 10, PBCH members and friends gathered at the equestrian area at Riverside State Park. Carol Klar gave a presentation on setting up a temporary electric fence for horse camping. A list of supplies for the electric fence follows.





Don Dyer gave a presentation on setting up a highline. He set it up low, so that we could see the details of the tree savers, the typical tension, and the various ways to attach the horses to the lines: either with a loop of cord and a prusik knot, or a hooky-onny-metal-thingy (okay, I looked it up: in-line swivels). Note that if you don't have a swivel at the high line, you must have a swivel at the halter. And you should adjust the horse's lead rope so his nose barely reaches the ground.

Both presentations generated questions and conversation. One of our visitors, Lenny Harris from the Olympic Chapter, described an intensive Leave No Trace certification program she had taken. We also learned how to tie a bowline knot while we were there.







As a follow up to the brief class on October 10, Carol Klar provided a list of things you'll need for your portable electric corral. She provided links to the items she uses, but there are several others that will work just as well.

- 1) [Step-in posts.](#) These run about \$2 each at North 40, and you'll need about 10
- 2) [Electric Fence Wire.](#)
- 3) [Electric Clips](#) – good to have one red(hot) and one green(ground)
- 4) [Fence Charger](#) – I like the solar powered type, but there are others.
- 5) A hammer
- 6) A grounding rod (could be a piece of re-bar)
- 7) 2 loops of baling rope to use as connection points on your posts for your gate handles.
- 8) [2 gate handles](#) Lots of types out there. This is just one of them.
- 9) A piece of cardboard one which to wrap your wire, when not in use.
- 10) I would also suggest getting a plastic storage box in which to keep fence items.



## Education Report for November 2020

Here are some topics that have been suggested for 2021. I will proceed once we know more about COVID restrictions for 2021. If you have any special requests, please send them to me.

--- Carol Klar, Education Coordinator cklar32@gmail.com

- Saddle fitting (Carol Klar / Steve Sefely)
- Fire safety and evacuation- have a speaker from our local Spokane County District 10
- Day at Sharp Shooters - learning about different handguns and practicing at their range.
- Rain gear show and tell. Bring your rain gear and tell why you chose it, etc.
- LNT (Lenny Harris)
- Knots and rope weaving (Don Dyer)
- How to carry a handgun when you ride (Karen Rice/Dave Swanson)
- Packing clinic for spring. Perhaps request Robert Eversole to do the same presentation as he recently did in N ID recently.
- From Patti C - I'd like to put together a slide show of photos that I and other members have taken on their rides. I'd show it at one of the meetings and then each contributor can say a few words about their ride and photo.
- From Patti C - Emergency Scenarios - Members can bring what they normally carry with them on their horse (everything but saddle). Then emergency scenarios are presented to the group and each responds to the scenario utilizing what they normally carry. Ken and I are willing to plan and mediate.



**My Thankful List** – so many good things were there, to keep me sane in the craziness of 2020!!!

## THANKS...

- For my wonderful trail horse **Onyx**. She enthusiastically tackles whatever comes her way. She has been my awesome equine partner since spring 2018, covering about 1000 miles together.
- For the amazing people of the riding community here in Spokane. A huge thanks to everyone who has joined me on the trails; it was a spectacular year!
- For so many beautiful places to ride here in Spokane and other wonderful areas throughout the balance of Washington, Idaho and Oregon
- For BCH, the hardworking men and women who improve our lovely trails and keep them accessible!
- My sweet hubby who never complains about all the time I spend with my horse, and even helps keep the horse corrals clean!
- For my health; over 60, this should probably be listed first. -- *Carol Klar - 2020*





## **My Thankful List from Cindy Miller (Visual Below)**

I would like to present my thankful list based on the frigid temps experienced the week of October 22 to 26<sup>th</sup>.

I will give a brief description of items on my list starting from my head working down to the toes. I am thankful for:

Capuche headgear in stunning camouflage shades. If your head or neck isn't too big, it is quite comfortable and will cover most head parts and neck if worn properly. Choking is minimal if put on backwards. This garment was purchased at BCHW Rendezvous a few years ago.

My peppermint happy scarf was purchased at the Dollar Store. Primarily used as a horse scarf prop during a photo shoot, I find it to be soothing and comfy around my own neck. My horses dearly love to nibble on the ticklish ends, but those days are over for them. I stole it.

Black down jacket was purchased from L.L. Bean, with tucked pockets and beautiful stitching. Ease of care is a big plus. This jacket cleans up nicely after being slobbered on by horses with their bran mash lips. This chic jacket keeps me warm as long as there is no hail, wind, rain, or snow.

Underall shirt is another layer of protection hidden beneath the jacket. It wicks moisture away keeping the body dry and free from sweat (not really, I sweat).

My gloves are designed by Thinsulate. Basic black is a good color to complement the rest of my apparel.

My trendy snow pants are lifesavers. Made in Canada by Cloudveil, these basic black pants match anything, preferably clothing with similar texture and warmth quality. They are not suited for the summer months, however. These pants have kept me warm in minus 10 below. The shell is 100% nylon and filler is 100% polyester.

My socks are SmartWool brand. They are not bulky and keep my feet dry.

Sorel boots, again basic black, can be worn with anything (preferably cold weather attire), and help keep me toasty warm.

In all seriousness, I truly am grateful for having the opportunity and means to dress for freezing weather. If we dress properly, we can remain comfortable enough to play and work outside. A few high calorie maple bars during the cold seem to help also.





## **WE GOT IT DONE!**

**Trail marking & clearing, arena painting, new campground corrals, new RSP trail obstacles**

A huge thanks to everyone who put their sweat equity into these Ponderosa BCH work parties!

**Carol Klar  
Chuck Rice  
Cindy Miller  
Craig Volosing  
Diana Birge  
Don Dyer  
Doug Bailey  
Doug Frederick  
Judy Babb (IEBCH)  
Karen Rice  
Ken Carmichael  
Larry Grinstead  
Linda Grinstead  
Michelle Eames  
Patti Carmichael  
Patty Wright  
Tom Birge  
Cheri King  
Steve Musetter**

➤ **Helpers from SCOPE...**



A tremendous **THANK YOU** to the generous donors to date,  
who have helped fund the Riverside Equestrian Park Improvement projects.



**All Terrain Fence – Shawn Brash**

**Anonymous Donors (2)**

**Arie Tobler**

**Bill and Mary Bennett**

**Constance Gribble**

**Dawn Gray**

**Dayle Hosek**

**Diana Birge**

**Diane Kadel**

**Gary and Cheryl King**

**Judy Harkins**

**Kathryn Brodrock**

**Keri Lindquist**

**Lincoln County Sheriff Posse**

**Lori Asmus**

**Mellissa Donaldson**

**Mount St Helens Chapter**

**Nicole Knowles**

**Ramona Hubble**

**Rand and Beverly Masteller**

**Riverside State Park Foundation**

**SCOPE**

**Sheri Tresko**

**Tawny Hooley**





**From Tom Birge:**

**I would like to thank those that have participated in work parties over the last couple of years.**

**Those that have shown up for at least 3 work parties are awarded the special blue hard hat for appreciation.**

**Doug Bailey**

**DeeDee Denison**

**Ken Carmichael**

**Patti Carmichael**

**Don Dyer**

**Linda White**

**Michelle Eames**

**Doug Frederick**

**Carol Klar**

**Larry Grinstead**

**Cindy Miller**

**Patty Wright**

**Karen Rice**

**Chuck Rice**

**Diana Birge**

**Tom Birge**

**Craig Volosing**



## **Watch Out for Dehydration!**

**By Cindy Miller**

Tanner and I took a long all-day trail ride a few weeks ago. It wasn't hot, nor was it cold but an ideal temperature for riding. It was not an easy ride, but horses were handling the trails well. After six miles into the ride, I realized my water bottle was missing, and I wasn't really thirsty. The total ride time was only five hours. When I arrived home four hours later, I grabbed some water and drank 8 oz. I began to feel queasy and lightheaded soon thereafter. I then began to shake uncontrollably with chills. A severe headache followed, and at that time I knew what had happened. A few months ago, I was diagnosed with dehydration and the symptoms I was experiencing were right on track as before. I began to pour liquids down, but nothing would stay there. I stayed in bed for three days; some liquid stayed down but no food. I felt all muscles and my insides had dried out. I didn't have enough strength to get out of bed. When the body is made of 60% fluids, severe dehydration can cause a shutdown.

I am fine now. After my body systems adjusted, recovery was speedy. A lesson learned; drink fluids, lots of them. I am always concerned about my horse not receiving enough water on our rides. From now on, I will make sure I drink, drink, drink myself. I never want to experience severe dehydration/exhaustion again. As we become older, we need more liquids!!



Note from editor: Agreed. Horses and humans need water. I added a small water filter to my emergency kit last year. I don't always pack the larger saddle bags with all the emergency stuff, but it's a good idea for all of us, and especially for us dehydration sensitive individuals. <https://www.rei.com/product/890900/sawyer-mini-water-filter>

***From Michelle Eames:***

***Thank you to all of our PBCH Officers, who have agreed to continue their roles for another year! We appreciate you and your hard work!***

**PRESIDENT**

**TOM BIRGE**

**SECRETARY**

**PATTY WRIGHT**

**TREASURER**

**DIANA BIRGE**

**STATE DIRECTOR**

**KEN CARMICHAEL**

Thanks also to Cindy Miller for helping with the newsletter, and everyone who has contributed to the newsletter or contributed or managed the facebook page (Cindy and Carol)!

# **Trailer Maintenance**

**By Ken Carmichael**

When I titled this article I suddenly realized that I could get in over my head. It is not my intent to talk about brakes, solid floors, electrical, hitches, tires and all the other things that are important to keeping our best friend safe. We can save those for other discussions and articles. They are good ideas for education programs.

I am going to limit this article to something that Patti and I did to our trailer that really seemed to work. Our trailer was purchased in December 1999, new. It has been kept under cover and if I do say so myself gets pretty good care. It must because on camp trips we sleep where the horses ride. However, given the great care some rust has appeared. When I washed it thoroughly in August I realized there were a few rust spots, especially in the first stall. It is a 3-horse slant. This turned into a two-step project.

The first step was repairing the few rust spots. This entailed grinding down the rust to bare metal with a power wire brush on the electric drill. Then applying rust inhibitor, primer and new paint.

Our trailer has wood on the interior sides and rear door but no protection on the bulkhead wall of the first stall. In the past I glued carpet there because the horses would do some damage. That was a modest success but not permanent and has not been there for several years. When I investigated alternatives I found the solution – HERCULINER.

First, we considered spraying on Rhino liner, way too expensive. Then Herculiner was recommended. Basically, what we did was clean the surface, apply Xylene then rolled on two coats of the Herculiner, just like paint. But it is a rubberized surface just like what is used to protect pickup beds. Very easy, appears more permanent and cheaper. We may consider doing the side walls and door as well. We purchased the Herculiner at General Store.

Anyone is welcome to see what we have done. I encourage others to share their good ideas.



**Answers from last month's "guess who these PBCH Members are?" Cindy and Gary Miller!**



**There is still time to enter the virtual costume contest!**

BCHW Winery and Halloween Costume Contest is going viral this year. Our popular Halloween Costume Contest is on, just looking a little different.

Contestants are encouraged to dress themselves and their horse or mule. Use your imagination and remember that this year's event would have been under a full moon on Halloween day!

Severino Cellars is sponsoring this contest and the first prize winner will receive a wine gift basket valued at \$150.

Send your entry to [secretary@bchw.org](mailto:secretary@bchw.org) between October 10<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>.

Keep visiting the BCHW website ([bchw.org](http://bchw.org)) for more information about participating wineries and other announcements!

# Meet the Carmichael's

## By Patti and Ken Carmichael

### Meet Patti

I was born and raised in Spokane. I graduated from Shadle Park High School in 1976. I raised two sons, Duane, now age 39, and Nicholas, now age 33. With marriages, divorces, etc. Ken and I have a very "blended" family that includes a total of 5 grandsons and 4 granddaughters.

I got my first horse at age 12. He was a Christmas present; a 7-year-old Appaloosa gelding named Mr. Six Thirty. My dad took me out to see him every Saturday and Sunday that winter, when finally, in February, he made an announcement at the dinner table that he was also going to buy a horse. He said he was tired of seeing me have all the fun! It rather blew me away at the time, because up until then I never realized my dad loved horses as much as I did.

During my younger days, Mr. Six Thirty and I did a lot of riding with my dad all over the Pacific Northwest, even taking in some week-long camp out rides. I also did gaming, parading and drill teamwork with that little Appy gelding. I have had several good horses since them but have never found his equal.

During the child rearing days, I had horses off and on. However, there was a stretch of time that I went without any. Events happening at the time made my personal life challenging and thinking back I believe a horse would have helped me through those times. In 2013, I decided it was time to get back into it. I joined Back Country Horseman's Inland Empire Chapter, even though I didn't yet own a horse. My dad had been a member of this chapter for many years and I thought it would be a good way to meet other horse people and make some connections. Around that same year, I purchased a little mare, a "Curley" horse named Cali. She was a nice horse as long as you stayed off her back! Not a good choice for me. I didn't have her for long. The woman where I boarded her had an older Quarter Horse Mare that she was interested in leasing. Therefore, for the next 6 months I leased and rode Lola. She was a beautiful Palomino. She was one of those "dead broke" horses and was a great choice for me at the time. I decided to purchase her, and Lola and I had lots of fun together over the next year as I became reacquainted with being a cowgirl.

Patti & Mr. Six Thirty  
c. 1975



Patti & Lola c. 2015

In March of 2014, I met Ken Carmichael at the BCHW Rendezvous. We had a great chat over dinner at the Saturday night banquet. He was an interesting fella and thought that perhaps I'd like to get to know him better.

In the fall of 2014, Ken called me up one day and asked if I would be interested in running for the Secretary's office for the chapter. Told him I would. I was elected. Shortly after that, I contacted Ken to see if I could obtain copies of past meeting minutes so I could prep for my new duties. I stopped by his house one rainy, Sunday afternoon. What started out to be a short visit

turned into a 3 ½-hour discussion at the kitchen table. After that visit, we attended BCH activities together and I kept

flirting, but he wasn't noticing the clues. I decided I needed to switch up the game a bit. At the BCH Christmas Party that year, I made my move and now look at us!

In the spring of 2015, Ken and I started doing some riding together. Beautiful Lola had a very slow walk, and with Ken owning Tennessee Walkers, riding with him was a bit challenging. It was time to think about a different horse. I sold Lola to a great guy who owned a ranch in Southern Idaho and wanted her for his grandkids. She was perfect for that duty, so it was easier to part ways, but still heartbreaking. After many months of shopping, I purchased my current horse, Scout, in the summer of 2015. He is a Tennessee Walker and a much better mount for keeping up with Ken! We are having lots of fun together, and we enjoy riding the many places in and around Spokane. Ken and I enjoy horse camping as well as there are many beautiful places close to the Spokane area.

My dream is to try a packing trip into the back country, but first, I have to convince Ken that this would be fun!

#### Ken's Version of the story:

Short story is that I had a few false starts into horses. I wore the cowboy outfits from kindergarten on but got the first horse in eighth grade in California. This lasted about six months when dad was transferred back to Spokane with a promise of another horse. That did not happen. Instead, we got into boating, which is another story and great love.

Another false start was in Iowa, which again lasted for about six months as the company I work for moved me around.

I can blame my current situation with horses on my ex-father-in-law, Ron Phillips. He introduced me to an old navy buddy, named Howard Moffit in 1983. I rode his Tennessee Walker, twice, and decided I needed to fulfill a lifetime dream. That resulted in Ginger, another six-month false start, and building the house on Seven Mile Rd. Memorial Day of 1985, I got Sasha and have never been without a horse since.

Because the property is next to Riverside State Park, I ride there most of the time. Howard rode with the Gentlemen on Horseback. I did that starting in 1986 for 18 years. Monte Robertson and I decided to join BCH in 1988. That has been a whirlwind of activity at the chapter and state level.

Moreover, like several other people, I know when you go to activities that you enjoy, and then you are most likely to meet someone that shares those good times. When Patti agreed to ride a Walker and sleep in the back of a horse trailer it came to pass. Patti's version is accurate.

Bottom line do not give up on your dreams. I waited a long time for the horses and they, and what came with them, became a big part of my life. Every time I throw a saddle on a horse and swing into the saddle, I know I made the right decision.

Ken and Patti c. 2018







***Oly the Elder, and Michelle's mom dressed as "Winter". When we win the Virtual Halloween Costume Contest, I'll share our winning costume. Maybe even if we don't win!***

***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!***