



PONDEROSA



Back Country Horsemen of Washington
We Get it Done !

February 2021

<http://pbchw.com>



LAKEVIEW/ODESSA

PACIFIC LAKE

CALENDAR

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

February 1, 2021, BCHW 2022 Calendar photo deadline.

February 2, 2021 Virtual PBCH meeting. Watch Pon3 emails and the facebook page for Zoom link.

President's Page:

Tom Birge Attended a BCHW presidents meeting in January. He wanted to pass on some information about grants, based on a presentation by Jen Bond, the grants and events administrator for BCHW.

If we need help with grants, Jen Bond is available, and needs the following kinds of information:

- Project name
- Chapter lead/contact
- Land manger contact
- Project description
- Funding needs/cost estimate
- Partners (if any)
- Timeline
- Existing Funding, if any
- Photos of project site

She can assist with advice, help with a submission, or submit the grant application for us. She can help us find grant opportunities. It's great that BCHW can provide these kinds of resources to the chapters!

Remember that Tom still has calendars, Riverside State Park trail maps, all for \$10 each; and Scavenger Hunt T-shirts for \$5 each.

Contact Tom at: tjbirge@msn.com

Tom received the Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition Newsletter, and an excerpt is provided below. PBCH is a member of the coalition.

By any standard 2020 was a very unusual year. However, the Coalition continued its work in promoting the development of the Palouse to Cascade Trail.

During the year the Coalition joined the Leafline Trails Coalition. This is a new group working within four Puget Sound counties to coordinate planning, mapping and development of regional trails. About 20 miles of the PTCT is located in King County. We are interested in connections to other existing and future trails in King County.

We also added four new Coalition Organization Members; the Friends of the Centennial Trail, Ferry County Rail Trail Partners, the Ponderosa Chapter of the BCHW, and the Spokane Bicycle Club.

While 2020 was rather subdued in regards to on the ground events, 2021 is scheduled to be quite active. Hopefully the JWPWR Spring Ride will take place as usual., State Parks is also scheduled to complete the opening of the Renslow, Beverly and Tekoa bridges. This will remove three substantial gaps in the PTCT that have required sometimes lengthy detours. The Coalition will be an active participant in publicizing these events.

New Ponderosa BCH Members

By Ken Carmichael

As the new year begins, the PBCH has received membership applications from new people.

Linda Daniels is a longtime member of IEBCH and has decided to join PBCH as well. She is well informed about BCH, and we look forward to having her participate in Ponderosa events. She lives in Mead.

Sarah Dafler is familiar with BCH because her dad was president of a chapter on the west side of the state. Some of you may have met John at the equestrian area as he and his wife have been the camp hosts. John has always been a big help to BCH and our projects there. Sarah lives in Medical Lake. Her daughter, Nikki, may be joining us at some of our events.

Patty Wright's husband Steve, and their daughter Lauren, have joined the chapter. It is always good to see family members even if they are not frequent riders. There are lots of things to do in PBCH that do not involve a horse.

Dean Giles' fiancé has joined the chapter. I understand that Corinne Helleison is not a rider, but we look forward to meeting her. We will depend on Dean getting her on one of his gentle horses.

Welcome to all of you, and we look forward to seeing you at chapter events and on the trail!



Editors Note:

It's still winter, but moving toward spring, and its all about the Calendar. Where to go, when to go, and how to get there. I hung up a paper calendar in my office to have as a reference in addition to my electronic calendar. I eventually noticed it was for 2019. Not so helpful! Luckily I found another current calendar, and I know I can always get another BCHW calendar from Tom.

The best ride planner I know is Carol Klar. How does she do it? Research.

She queries people in person, on facebook, and from other BCH chapters. Once she hears about a cool place she may want to visit, she uses GAIA (<https://www.gaiagps.com/>) and other mapping Apps to figure out distances, directions, camping areas and good trails. She asks questions about conditions from people that know the area. She then develops a plan based on likely best seasons to visit, and potential need for reservations, and then puts it on her Calendar.

Take a look at the PBCH calendar, a detailed one was emailed to the members by Tom in January, and a summary calendar is below. Note the July 10 and 11 dates for the PBCH Poker Ride and Open House. Hold those dates and please plan to assist.

Happy Planning! Fill in those Calendars, and hope for an early spring and great riding!

Michelle Eames



2021 PBCH Calendar

All dates subject to change due to COVID or other reasons.

January 5, Membership meeting

February 1, Calendar pictures due to BCHW

February 2, - Membership meeting

February 24, Volunteer hours due

March 2, Membership meeting

April 6, Membership meeting

April 23-25th, Ladies campout Ancient Lakes [Date still being confirmed]

May 4, Membership meeting

May 31, volunteer hours

June 8th – Membership meeting

July 6th – Membership meeting

July (date to be determined) Open House/Poker ride rehearsal

July 10th-11th Open House/Poker ride @ Riverside State Park

July 31 – Volunteer Hours

August 3_ - Membership meeting

September 7, - Membership meeting

September 10, – Volunteer Hours preliminary hours

September 30, – Volunteer hours final report due

October 1, weekend Escure Ride

October 5, - Membership meeting – Elections

October 30, – BCHW Wine Ride at Zillah

November 2, - Membership meeting

December 7, - Membership meeting

Other events can be found here: https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php

Trail and Travel updates for out-of-state travelers by Carol Klar

Are you planning to travel out of state with your horse this year? If so, there is some good news...

Oregon

I visited the Oregon Dept of Agriculture website yesterday, and was pleasantly surprised to discover that they have revised their travel requirements for horses entering Oregon. The previous requirements were cumbersome and expensive. Now, they are accepting Electronic *CVIs good for 30 days, and no longer require a separate travel permit. They still don't accept the **extended** e-CVI which is good for 6 months, but are in the process of considering it. We can hope that they will be onboard before the camping season is too far along. For full details, see the [Oregon Dept of Ag Website](#).

*CVI = Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (AKA Health Certificate)

Idaho & Montana - It appears regulations for these states are the same as 2020. They participate in GVL and accept the 6-month EECVI.

Most equine vets in our area are familiar with the Electronic CVI process which is commonly done through Global Vet Link. GVL is really easy to use for the vet and for the horse owner.

If you have questions about other states accepting the Electronic Extended CVI, [click here](#).

Ancient Lakes Ponderosa BCH Ladies Campout update

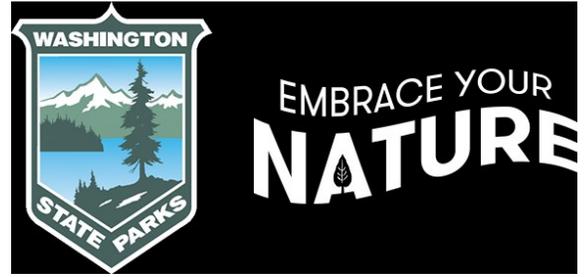
The rescheduled date for this campout is April 23rd weekend. The folks who were to participate in the Sept. 2020 campout, are listed below. I have 2 campsites reserved, each with 4 corrals. As of today, there is one open camping spot with a corral. If someone would like it, please contact me. Cklar32@gmail.com. I will create a waitlist for anyone else interested. Just let me know. It may be possible to reserve a 3rd campsite, if there is sufficient interest.

1. Carol Klar
2. Heather Trautman
3. Karen Rice
4. Melissa Halpin
5. Michelle Eames
6. Patti Carmichael
7. Patty Wright

At this event, I will offer instruction on using GAIA GPS to anyone who would like to learn to track their rides. It is a very useful tool. If interested, please download GAIA GPS to your phone before the campout. It runs on several different types of phones.

State Parks Messaging Meeting

By Ken Carmichael



I was invited to participate in a Washington State Parks Foundation Messaging Meeting. Basically, the purpose was to share the status of State Parks budget proposal and gather input from the meeting participants. Some of the participants included John Floberg, Executive Director of the Friends of State Parks, State Park Commissioner Mark Brown, Jon Snyder from the Governor's office, Owen Rowe who is the State Parks Policy and Governmental Affairs Director, Andrea Imler from Washington Trails Association and Wendy Brown of the RCO. The group talked about a robust State Park system.

It was an interesting meeting with good discussion. State Parks is very happy with the Governor's support of State Parks. His budget proposal includes an increase of 92 full time equivalent employees and a \$26 million increase from the general fund. That is 68 percent. Further he is not asking for a 5 percent cut in spending as with other agencies.

Overall, it appears that the Governor recognizes the value State Parks has had during the pandemic. This last year was a good example of the need for investment in our State Parks. In August State Parks had a 17 percent increase in attendance over August 2019. For October, the increase was 20 percent over the previous year. It is expected that now that people have found the great outdoors that they will be coming back.

State Parks did not experience any Corona Virus outbreaks, which speaks well for the job staff did to protect their people.

The theme for 2021 is that Outdoors is for all. We want to keep parks available and affordable for all.

Groups were encouraged to support State Parks during this 105-day legislative session. It was mentioned that while not exciting to support, it is necessary to support the infrastructure of our parks such as roads, utilities and buildings.

Washington will continue to grow and State Parks must keep pace. It controls more government land in the state than any other agency. It is a good value and worthy of our support. We will be discussing how we can advocate for State Parks during this legislative session. This includes participating in the BCHW Legislative Day February 15.

I expect to receive more information about the progress of the legislative action.

BCHW Virtual Leadership Trainings.

By Ken Carmichael

Saturday, January 23rd was the annual BCHW Leadership Training. This year it was conducted on Zoom which saved everyone from driving to Ellensburg.

There were sessions on Membership, Vision, Presidents, Membership Development, Volunteer Hours, Directors, Treasurers, Publicity, Trail Bosses and Legislative. I could only attend a few of the sessions because they were held concurrently. This is a great opportunity to learn more about BCHW and share information with other chapters. Thank you to all that took the time to attend and be a bigger part of Back Country Horsemen of Washington.

More on Leadership Training Sessions

By Michelle Eames

Several PBCH members attended various leadership trainings. I have summaries of four hour-long sessions I attended. These were recorded, and the recordings will be available soon on the BCHW website, if anyone wants to review them later.

[Volunteer hours and coordination.](#)

There is a state Volunteer hours coordinator, and 4 regional coordinators. The state, regional, and local coordinators use a very specific excel spread-sheet to track hours, transportation, and other volunteer efforts across chapters and across the state.

The local coordinators must keep the records at least 3 years, and its recommended to keep them longer, since the data is used to calculate individual hours. Local hours will be entered, then will be reviewed by the regional coordinator, and corrections may be needed.

Volunteer hours are needed for tracking for grants, progress on work activities, and for individual members hours and awards. There are many rules for what counts in different categories; your local volunteer hours coordinator can help with this.

Carol Klar is our current PBCH volunteer hours coordinator. This position is a good position for a person who is analytical and detail oriented, and is comfortable with excel spreadsheets. ***Carol would like to remind everyone that volunteer hours are due to her by February 24, for the period of October 2020 through February 2021.***

[BCHW Mission Statement Overview and discussion.](#)

The State BCHW is a subset of the Back Country Horsemen of America, and that includes their mission statement. The group stepped through the national mission statement, and discussed each part. There are 31 chapters in Washington, and BCHW is well-respected by land managers. When there are differing views by chapters, some land management agencies are looking to the State BCHW to provide representation. There is movement toward more collaborative processes and agreements across states and regions, for example with the Oregon/Washington region of the U.S. Forest Service. The Great American Outdoors act provides a lot of money to the Forest Service, and they will be asking for input from their users (including BCH). We must be at the table. There was also an interesting and active discussion about future organization of BCHW and membership, with potential for regional boards, or something like that to do the administrative duties. More to come on that.

The BCHW mission statement is here:

https://www.bchw.org/back_country_horsemen_of_washington_state.php

Publicity

- The presenters provided and discussed a disclaimer for social media and BCHW website.
- Any public positions on issues for BCHW must be checked through BCHW.
- Wear PPE (Personal Protective Equipment; ie: hard hats) for official BCHW work party photos.
- The BCHW website has been revamped. The presenters discussed all of the parts.
- For websites, think about different devices, and whether it is useful for both cell phones and computers.
- Think about marketing on front page of website, and making “contacts”, and membership information easily accessible.
- There is much more flexibility for how chapter facebook pages are managed. But remember that work official work photos still must display proper PPE.
- Lori Lennox and Louise Media are the facebook coordinators for BCHW. If our local page has a good post, let them know.
- Newsletters. Keep background and updates over the past month to put in newsletters. Pick an engaged chapter member. Use a template or develop a template to make it easy.
- Trailhead News has moved online. It will be posted on BCHW website.
- There was a brief discussion of Twitter and Instagram, as a way to reach out to different groups, especially younger folks.
- BCHW is looking for committee members for the Publicity Committee, to seek out media coverage, and increase outreach about BCHW. They would like 1 contact from each chapter. Contact Louise Media or Lori Lennox or Tina Short.
- Currently, for PBCH, our facebook managers are: Carol Klar and Cindy Miller. Newsletter Editor: Michelle Eames. Website: Chuck Rice. We don't have a “publicity chair” as best I know.

Public Lands Discussion

Public lands are the basis for our BCHW mission: Keeping stock on public lands. Kathy Young is the Public Lands Chair for BCHW. There is a small public lands committee with regional representation, they are looking for best ways to speak with one voice. This is still evolving. Public land managers like to understand which voice is speaking for the organization. Of note, National Forests have requested main contacts, rather than multiple contacts from multiple chapters.

Though this process is not completely figured out, it is likely local concerns would feed through the regional contacts. There may still be a need for chapter-specific public lands liaison positions. I am not sure who our public lands liaison is for PBCH. This position receives regular emails on public lands issues.

BCHW Website: There is a public lands page on the website. www.bchw.org/public_lands.php

BCHW is working on a volunteer service agreement with Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) Forest Service, for all BCH activities in Washington. The agreement is expected to be signed soon, and it will apply to all chapters. The agreement will be shared with chapters in near future.

The Great American Outdoors Act allocates money through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Includes funding for next 5 years for maintenance projects. Includes Forest Service and other Federal Agencies. Project selection is ongoing, first rounds were already selected, now looking out for 2023 projects. Contractors and volunteers will be needed.

The group discussed concern of stock camps being used by other users; part of solution is to share those locations with horse people so they get more use.

Additional Thoughts From Carol Klar regarding the Leadership Trainings She Attended:

A few things I took out of the meeting are as follows...

Need for Collaboration: I was somewhat taken aback when the speaker mentioned that no trees would be found down across the trails in the Pasayten in the 1980s. Hard to think of a time when government services were that abundant, but it puts things into perspective regarding the conditions of today and need for a collaborative effort to achieve the same outcome. Partnering with organizations holding similar objectives is important.

Ideas on club organization and membership

- Seeing the staggering drop off in statewide membership numbers was of great concern, and seems to be perhaps **the greatest challenge facing BCH**. How do we fix it?
- Getting people to get along and work together was suggested as well as considering better ways to organize with less organizational overhead. A suggestion was made to possibly do a few regional groups rather than so many chapters.
- Look at the WTA (Washington Trails Association) model and see what they are doing. They have a more streamlined organizational structure and are attracting lots of members who are active within the organization. In the general population from which we draw, horse owners however, are certainly fewer than hikers though. As a side note, I have been impressed at the robust turnout that WTA work parties have.
- The ideas proposed about involving youth as well as folks wanting to get into horses were interesting. Liability was flashing in my mind as these things were presented. Given that so many youth veer away from horses as they move on to college and careers, I'm not sure how much retention would have.

Ideas on Publicity

- Nothing really new struck me in this discussion, other than possibly the need for chapters to send emails/FB info to the state, to be sure it gets into the BCHW outlets.
- Good that we were ahead of the curve in creating a Ponderosa BCH FB page for members only. The example of the one chapter having 50 strangers turn out for a ride posted on their public page was pretty wild.

Just a general note... It was wonderful that our BCHW officials took the time to put together this presentation today. It was good to become acquainted with some individuals that I didn't previously know. One suggestion for improvement though would be to be sure that speakers have a positive focus.

I am eager for the time we can again meet in person. In the meantime though, it is good that zoom can fill in. It also saved a lot of people a lot of driving. Especially at this time of year, that's a good thing.

Half Hitch Knot: Why and how to use it

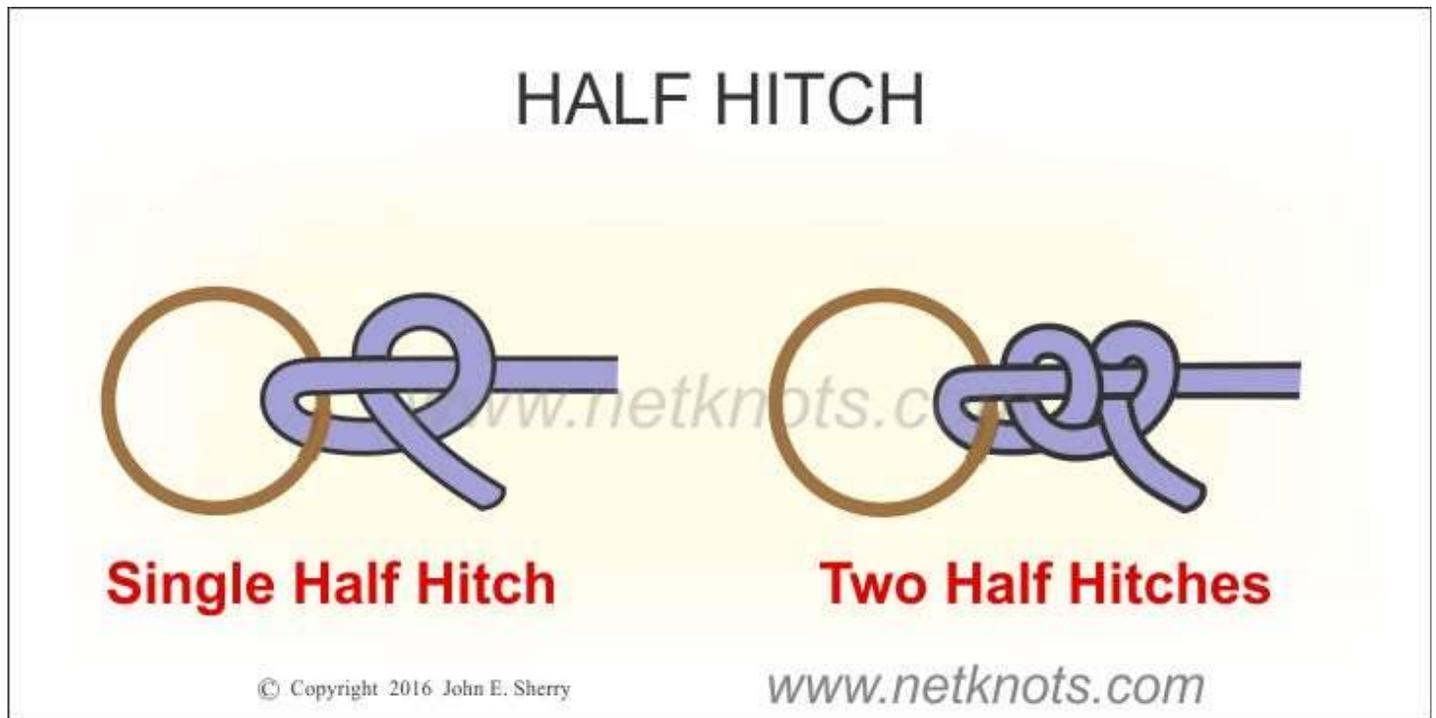
By Ken Carmichael

We talk about many knots and their value. Probably the easiest, and I found to be useful, knot is the half hitch. I usually use it in combination with other knots to lock them in place. When using it for this purpose some people say one is good, two is better.

Here is a recent reason I found for using the half hitch. I stretched a stout rope across the corral to separate two horses while they ate. I pulled it extra tight so Silver would not try to go under it. To do this I used the trusty Truckers Knot that we use to pull highlines tight. One rule of thumb is not to pull an end through unless absolutely necessary. This makes it easier to untie.

I thought I did a pretty good job until I went out later and found the knot untied. Evidently one of the horses, Silver, pulled on the loose end and down came the rope. Tonight I put a half hitch at the end of the tie. Let's see just how smart he really is.

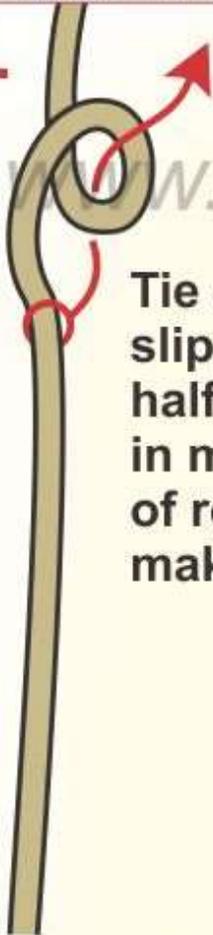
Lesson, throw that half hitch on at the end to secure the knot.



TRUCKER'S HITCH

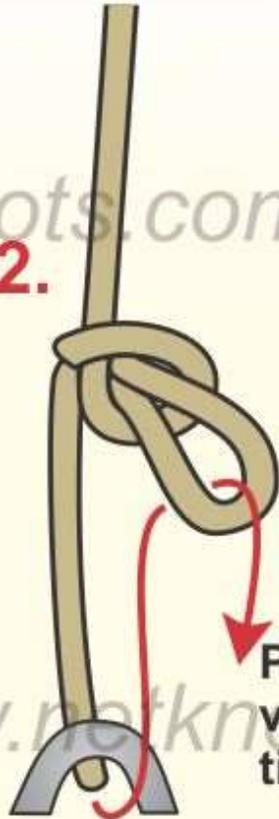
TIED OFF AT END

1.



Tie a slippery half-hitch in middle of rope to make a loop.

2.



Pull very tight

Make a turn around a bar, cleat, etc. and bring end up to loop.

3.



Secure with one or two half-hitches, around one or both lines.

Quiz

By Ken Carmichael

I go by a philosophy that when we leave the barn on horseback, we need to know four things:

- What to do in an emergency
- Have the equipment to handle the emergency
- Know how to use the equipment
- Be willing to use the equipment and knowledge

This winter I have been doing some reading to refresh my memory and thought it would be fun to have some quizzes. So here are the first two. The answers will be in the next newsletter.

FIRST QUESTION:

If you saw these symptoms what do you believe is the cause?

- Anxiety, weakness, paleness, sweating, thirst
- Confusion
- Pulse rapid and weak
- Dizzy and faint

What has happened, what could be the consequences and what should you do?

SECOND QUESTION:

You are lost. What are the two most important goals, what sequence should you do them in and how do you prepare to accomplish these two goals with knowledge and equipment?

Give these two situations some serious thought. It may be my life you save.



Hopes and Plans for Riding in 2021

By Louise Walton

During my best year, seemingly several long years ago, I rode 700 + miles over the season. Many miles with old friends and those who became new friends. My favorite sorrel QH mare (I only have one sorrel), Jade, carried me over most of those miles. I have added my favorite black bay Rocky Mountain mare (I only have one bay), Truth, to my herd. Between these two lovely ladies I want to top my former accomplishments; I want to go everywhere and many places multiple times. Let me just say that our decision to move from the East to Eastern WA for retirement was one of the best decisions we ever made. So many fantastic places to ride. The Back Country Horsemen (BCH) were responsible for encouraging me to explore so many more technically difficult areas. I now get to pick and choose from so many.

Where do I plan to ride? Within 30 minutes of our home is Rustlers Gulch. Lots of water and many trails to explore. Varied terrain can challenge anyone's skills and the brave can bushwhack in reasonable safety. Right up Rt. 2 is Pend Oreille County Park which has both tough and easy terrain; you will need to retrace steps to get in a long ride. We would like to get back to Mount Spokane once or twice. And Riverside too. I almost forgot Missile Site which is our go-to area for winter and easy spring rides to start conditioning. It is also a great place to take new riders. A must for its fabulous terrain variety and extensive trail system is Calispel Basin. There will be many camp outs there. Being a member of about six BCH chapters I check their newsletters for rides and hope to enjoy again Jungle Hill Horse Camp with the Ferry County BCH and Methow Valley with their BCH. The Burke Lake area is on my radar after chatting with Bob of the Mt. St. Helens Chapter. I am thrilled to have nailed down this trip for March 29 to April 3. It will be the first camp out of the season. Dates are going fast. Yeah! Friends want to go to the K Diamond K Guest Ranch in Republic in April (27 -29). Not my usual cup of tea but sounds like fun and it's not expensive. Adventures abound and it's grab and go time!

I haven't forgotten Idaho. Another camp out favorite is Heyburn State Park (both North and South areas). You sure can get in lots of enjoyable miles there. Word has it that there is a private campsite nearby that should be available this year. Fourth of July Pass has plenty of trails and is just off I-90 past Coeur d'Alene. Revisiting Chipmunk Rapids and the Valley of the Dead Turtles (another story) combined with camping at Pee Wee Creek are also in my plans for 2021. Just add to that whatever else I can be roped into by friends (see above). What are your favorites? I am game!

For more information about Rustlers Gulch wildlife area, go here (photo from website):

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/places-to-go/wildlife-areas/rustlers-gulch-wildlife-area-unit>

There are a couple of different ways in, send Louise or other members a note for more information.



Preparing for 2021 Riding

By Ken Carmichael

Some of the things that Patti and I are doing to prepare for riding include:

- Cleaning saddles – I do this each year. It gives me an opportunity to look the gear over to see if any mending or replacement is necessary. I do not want to be doing that in the spring.
- Check saddlebags – While I have the saddlebags off the saddle I take everything out to check condition and see if I want to add something. I rarely remove anything. That is probably a problem. Mainly I am looking at how I am set for first aid, survival and finding my way home. These things are with me on every trip.
- Vacation Schedule – Patti and I sit down with our calendars and her vacation schedule (poor lady is still working) and plan trips. This is the fun part of the winter preparation.
- Pet horses – We make sure that we pay attention to the horses like checking their feet.
- Vet – Later on we will be making appointments with the vet for shots and teeth floating

Yesterday I was talking to Doug Frederick and he said that Michelle was riding at Lakeview. Well, I was planning to write newsletter articles. This did not seem fair, so I put on all the clothes I own and went for a ride myself. Thank you Michelle for the motivation! It was a great ride.

Editors note: You are welcome Ken! To add another item to your prep list: Trailer Maintenance. I have this task written on my calendar for February.

**ALL YOU NEED IS THE PLAN,
THE ROAD MAP, AND THE
COURAGE TO PRESS ON TO
YOUR DESTINATION.**

EARL NIGHTINGALE

<https://www.habitsforwellbeing.com/20-inspirational-quotes-on-planning/>

Escure Ranch Work Party

By Ken Carmichael

Nothing new to report on this work party. BLM needs to give us cost estimates on the tables and fire rings. I would anticipate that the work will take place in early April.

I wrote another article for the Trailhead News promoting the Escure. The Purple Sage Riders chapter in the Tri-Cities has offered help with labor and financing. This is great news!

Patti and I are planning our summer vacations and have penciled in two long weekends at the Escure. It is a great place to ride.

See link for a map of the Escure Ranch area:

https://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/files/brochures/Escure_2010.pdf

Safety Planning for Successful Rides.

By Doug Frederick

I have recently volunteered to be the Safety Coordinator for our Chapter. One of the things I wanted to do is write an article every month on a topic that related to safety. Normally in the winter it is a good time to relax and do some planning for the upcoming trail riding season. One great idea for something to do is to write down your own personal emergency plan. When thinking about the Plan, I would start with notifications of someone outside of your riding group especially if you are riding alone. Send a text, email, something to let some one know where you are going, when you are due back, what you are driving, and if you have a cell phone. In case there is an emergency this saves a lot of time in case someone needs to reach you, or if the authorities need to help you or your party in case of emergency. I can send you a form that might be helpful if you want; my email is dfrederick@q.com. After you return then check back in with your contact.

I have been doing this my whole career as a forester/firefighter and it saved my bacon more than once.

**Precaution is better
than cure.**

Edward Coke

From: <https://www.wisesayings.com/safety-quotes/>



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.

PBCH Officers

PRESIDENT	TOM BIRGE
SECRETARY	PATTY WRIGHT
TREASURER	DIANA BIRGE
STATE DIRECTOR	KEN CARMICHAEL