



# PONDEROSA



Back Country Horsemen of Washington  
We Get it Done !

August/September 2021



Fireweed at campsite near stream on the Bob Marshall trip. (See more about the trip inside!)

## CALENDAR

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

**August 31, 2021; Invitation from NE chapter BCHW; Special Speaker! Scouts Trail.**

**Sept 7, PBCH membership meeting @ RSP equestrian area; speaker 5:30 pm, meeting afterward.**

**September 20, - Volunteer Hours, preliminary hours due**

**October 5, - PBCH Membership meeting - Elections**

## **Notes from the PBCH President**

### **By Tom Birge**

Our membership meeting will be held September 7<sup>th</sup> at the equestrian area at Riverside State Park. There will be a guest speaker and hoof-boot demo at 5:30; and the membership meeting will begin shortly after that. Topics to be discussed during the membership meeting will be a nominating committee for the October election, upcoming winter events, and planning for next year.

**Remember the early start for the September 7, meeting: 5:30 PM!!!**

## **Planning for the Future**

**By Ken Carmichael**

It may seem early to think about planning for 2022 but it will be upon us fast. PBCH is, and should be, involved in many projects. But these take planning and prep work.

First comes the ideas of what we want to do, and this takes everyone's input. Why did you join BCH and what do you want to see happen? Next we must plan these events, putting them on calendars, working with our partners, and funding and implementing the projects. This all takes leadership.

If you have an event or some type of project it is never too soon to speak up.

We have chapter elections in October. This will help set the direction for the chapter in 2022. Please think about the role you want to play. Being involved makes it more fun.

## **Newsletter Theme: Rules of Thumb for Horsemanship**

**Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor**

Please enjoy the contributions on rules of thumb in the last part of this newsletter. We had a few contributions and I found some interesting websites. Thanks everyone for the help and contributions!!!

**Invitation from Northeast chapter BCHW:  
Special Speaker! Scouts Trail.  
August 31, 2021**

The following is an email to all Northeast BCH members announcing a special meeting for a guest speaker. They have invited the Ponderosa BCH to also attend. If you are interested, please mark your calendar.

Ken Carmichael

*Please note that we will be having a special event on Tuesday Aug 31st. Please see below. I hope you all can join us in welcoming Scout and Michelle to our neck of the woods.*

*On August 31st we will be hosting Scouts Trail. This is a young lady and her mother who used to live in Cape Cod but sold everything to travel and work on their mental health and anxiety. Michelle Bobinski Murphy is a retired firefighter, EMT, search and rescue as well as Mom extraordinaire. Scout is a young lady that suffered bullying and a major horse accident. They are coming to share their story with us about how they overcame the stress of what life tossed at them. If you haven't heard of them look up Scouts Trail on facebook. They will be at the Clayton Grange on August 31st. We are not sure of time yet so stay tuned for more information. I am so excited that they will be spending time with us!*

*Here is a little note from her facebook page:*

*My mom and I traveled the world (I have been to 11 countries so far) for about 4 years. On August 15, 2019, after selling our farm on Cape Cod, we hit the road fulltime. We live in a tiny home (truck camper) and tow our horses. We are seeing America by horseback! I have always been homeschooled. It is primarily done through experiential learning. Travel and culture providing endless opportunities for learning.*

*I also have dealt with anxiety and depression and have fought my way back to a happy life. The road, the animals and nature is the place for me.*

*We mostly camp and boondock in places where our trail dog is welcome. We would love to meet up and ride, especially if you have any kids who like to ride.*

*Mom and I are available to speak at your club, venue, event or gathering. We can speak on our lifestyle and adventures, unschooling, my recovering from a riding accident and controlling anxiety. Mom can also teach wilderness medicine and how to stay safe and prepared in the backcountry.*

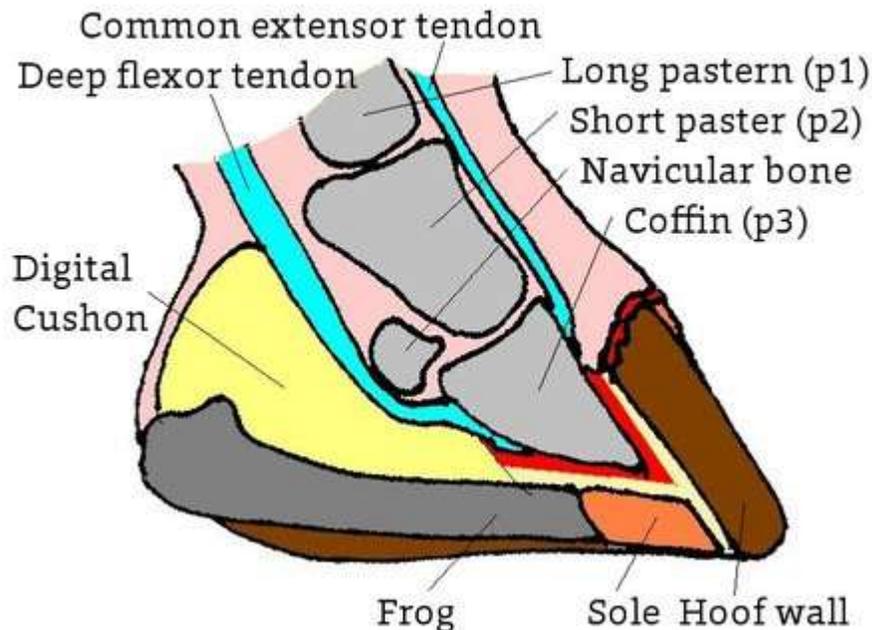
*Respectfully,  
Lynn Herrington  
NEBCH President*

# The September 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Riverside State Park – Hoof Boot Education Program

**submitted by Carol Klar**

We are fortunate to have **Lydia Friel** as our guest speaker for the September meeting. Lydia is a barefoot trimmer and hoof-boot fitter. Tom & Diana Birge will be bringing horse(s), for the live demo with Q&A. If you have considered boots for your horse, here is a terrific opportunity to learn about the products, the process and the price. The meeting will be starting a bit earlier than usual, so we have adequate time for this presentation before sunset. Lydia is terrific, and we hope everyone can attend!

## Horse Hoof Internal Structures



<https://equimed.com/health-centers/hoof-care/articles/summer-hoof-care-for-your-horse>

## **2021 PBCH Calendar**

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

August 31, 2021, Invitation from NE chapter BCHW to see Special Speaker! Scouts Trail.

Sept 7, PBCH membership meeting @ RSP equestrian area; speaker 5:30 pm, meeting afterward.

September 18, 2021 - 3rd QTR BCHW BOD meeting; Kittitas Valley Event Center; Ellensburg

September 24, – Volunteer Hours, preliminary hours due

September 30, – Volunteer hours final report due

October 7-10- Escure Ranch Campout

October 5, - PBCH Membership meeting – Elections

October 30, – BCHW Wine Ride at Zillah

**November 2, - Membership meeting**

December 4, 2021 - 4th QTR BCHW BOD meeting - Kittitas Valley Event Center - Ellensburg

December 7, - PBCH Membership meeting

Other events can be found here: [https://www.bchw.org/upcoming\\_events.php](https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php)

### 2022 Planned Events.

March 18-20, 2022. BCHW Rendezvous.

May 2022, third week. Joe Watt Canyon Poker Ride.

# Volunteer Hours

submitted by Carol Klar

Y'all probably dread the end of the quarter when I bug you for your Volunteer Hours reports... However, I'd like to say that besides doing good work for a good cause, these reports net many GOOD things. You've heard about how the statistics are used to help with legislation and funding. Closer to home, **FIVE free Discover Passes** were earned this year for the hours put in on-site at Riverside State Park. Family hours are combined to reach the 24 hour minimum needed to qualify. 2021 Pass recipients will be:

- Linda White
- Carol Klar
- Doug Frederick & Michelle Eames
- Chuck & Karen Rice
- Ken & Patti Carmichael

Parties named above can contact Ken to let him know in what month your current pass expires, so your free pass can be ordered to correspond with that. One pass per family.

## BLM Barbwire Pull

**By Ken Carmichael**

We received a very nice thank you note from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the work we did pulling barbwire in 2021. The note was signed by the entire staff and included T-shirts for those on the work party.

BLM is a very good partner in providing excellent riding areas and it is a pleasure to do something for them where we have the tools and human power.

We enjoy riding at Fish Trap Lake, Escure Ranch, Lakeview Ranch and Telford.

If you have ideas for work parties where you ride, please bring them forward.

Watch for future work parties on BLM land.

# Calvary Bible School

By Ken Carmichael

The Calvary Bible School had a four-day session that used a western theme. Irene Ewing asked if I could bring about 10 horses for the kids to pet. This was in conjunction with other equestrian activities. Later she asked if I could provide a rider dressed out as an old time working cowboy. I said I thought this could be done.

This project involved calling on the Ponderosa BCH chapter then calling the Northeast chapter and SCOPE. Together we put together 13 horses, including the minis. Our own Craig Volosing was the resident cowboy-- He fit the part perfectly.

On July 27 we gathered in the old Fairwood Shopping Mall parking lot. Besides our group there was a mini horse pulling a cart and people showing the kids how to use a lariat.

The 150 kids were divided into 4 groups. Craig kept the kid's attention showing them a good working horse and talking about being a cowboy.

Our group of 13 horses stood in line patiently letting the kids pat them on the side, shoulders, neck and face as they asked questions. They showed a lot of interest in the steel shoes. For many of them it was the first time to see a horse up close and personal. The kids enjoyed moving from one horse to the other learning about each one. You have not seen a group of better-behaved horses. They seemed to know what was expected of them.



On this day equestrians got some good press with the 5- to 8-year-old crowd. Some expressed an interest in owning horses. There is the future of BCH.



## **BCHW Winery Ride**

**By Ken Carmichael**

The following is information about the BCHW Winery Ride on October 30, 2021. It is great to have this very popular fundraiser back on course. Patti and I enjoy volunteering at the event. Please read the information and consider riding or volunteering.

### Start planning your winning costume because the BCHW Winery Ride is on!

It's been a long dry year and a half but that ends this year. The 2021 BCHW Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest is on for this year!

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this event so mark your calendars for Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> and let's put these pandemic blues behind us.

This year we have mixed up the Friday and Saturday dinners and the prizes. They will be bigger and better than ever. For a full list of changes and all other information, be sure to read the "Know Before You Go" document which is attached to this email. One of the major changes you need to note is that the early bird prices end October 1<sup>st</sup> so plan ahead and start getting excited.

Another new exciting change is that you can now register and pay on-line so go to the Event page at [bchw.org](http://bchw.org) to get all the information you need.

Here is the direct link to the online Registration Form [2021 20th Annual Winery Ride Online Registration](#)

Here is a link to the printable paper Registration Form. [Printable Registration Form](#)

Please print a copy of the attached Liability Release for each rider on your registration form. Sign and send in with the paper registration.

THANK YOU!!!!

If you have any questions, email [bchwwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:bchwwineryride@gmail.com)

We are so excited to see our old friends and to meet new ones! Let's drink to that.

Your BCHW Winery Ride Team

*Remember, this event supports BCHW and your participation advances our mission to keep trails open for all of us. No matter where you are, there are trails that you enjoy due to the work that this organization does.*



## **Wednesday in the Woods**

**By Ken Carmichael**

The Riverside State Park Foundation, in cooperation with REI, is again putting on the “Wednesday in the Woods” event in Riverside State Park. We have participated several times over the years with horses or other information.

The event is held at the Bowl and Pitcher campground and is free to the public. Weekly topics include:

Hoot Show – Birds of Prey

Moose, Cougars, and Bears

Cycling Adventures

Minimum Impact and Trail Etiquette

Flora and Fauna in the Park

Hiking in the Inland Northwest

On August 4, the topic was Minimum Impact and Trail Etiquette. State Parks Rangers presented the Minimum Impact. Patti and I presented Trail Etiquette. We had the audience play out the roles of hikers, bicyclists and horsemen as they met on the trail. The participants had stick horses, bicycle helmets and walking sticks. This was lots of fun.

In the past I have taken horses into the campground to expose participants to our best friends and companions. They thoroughly enjoy getting up close to the horses.

Between Riverside and Mt. Spokane State Parks, we have 207 miles of trails, most of which we share with bicyclists and hikers. There are over 20,000 acres. It is important that everyone on the trails understands their responsibilities for sharing the trail. It is a pleasure and fun to share trail etiquette from the perspective of a horseman.

# **Washington State Parks Commission Meeting**

**By Ken Carmichael**

The Washington State Parks held its periodic Commission meeting in Spokane the week of July 12. This meeting is rotated around the state.

The seven State Park Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to set policy for about 100 state parks. Peter Mayer is the new Director. There are several new Commissioners that are not familiar with parks in this area.

The meetings consisted of a day long tour of Mt. Spokane, a full day working session, a BBQ dinner with area stakeholders at Riverside State Park, the formal meeting then several visited the Fisk Property on Lake Spokane.

I attended the two day-long sessions and was invited to the dinner. This gave me several opportunities to talk individually with each Commissioner and key staff members. In addition, I was able to formally address the Commission during the meeting. While I wear several hats as I work with the two large parks, it is well understood that I represent Back Country Horsemen.

The meetings included topics such as:

- Commission Reports
- Grant process
- Boating Program Update
- Legislative Proposals and Update
- Financial Update
- Spokane Area Parks Overview
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- No Child Left Inside
- Palouse to Cascade Trail update
- Major Projects Update
- Public Comments

I always appreciate the opportunity to attend these meetings. It puts the park system in perspective, puts a face with the names, and I have a chance to network with the staff and other stakeholders. While the Commission must be concerned about all of the parks it is very evident that the Inland Northeast Area provides many challenges with its diverse recreation and two largest parks in the system.

The time spent at the meetings is well worth the effort.

## **BCHW Centralized Accounting**

**By Ken Carmichael**

In June, the BCHW Board of Directors voted to initiate a centralized accounting system for the chapters. This followed a great deal of research and analysis. The decision was not taken lightly and in fact I challenged many aspects of the project until I was convinced that it was the best approach for BCHW.

Major concerns were, one is it necessary and the best approach for BCHW, and second is it feasible.

Following the vote, and in concurrence with board guidelines, a pilot project was established with several chapters. This will be a major change and every effort is being made to do it right the first time.

Some individuals continue to question the logic, feasibility and the benefits to the chapters. I can appreciate their concern. However, if one were to follow all the information that has been put out I think their concerns would be eliminated.

I caution everyone that if you have questions or concerns about the project please become informed and not be influenced by misinformation. If you have questions, please ask.

The PBCH Treasurer, Diana Birge, is well up on the process as she has participated in the discussions.

We all want this process to work and be a smooth transmission. Diana and I will do everything possible to make that happen.

# Poker Ride 2021

By Ken Carmichael

We have completed another Ponderosa fundraiser. The first chapter poker ride was held on July 11, and it was a success.

There was some hot weather but it did not deter 91 riders and 25 volunteers from enjoying a nice day around horses. Besides the poker ride itself, we had many raffle items, a tack sale and sold many items at the chapter store.

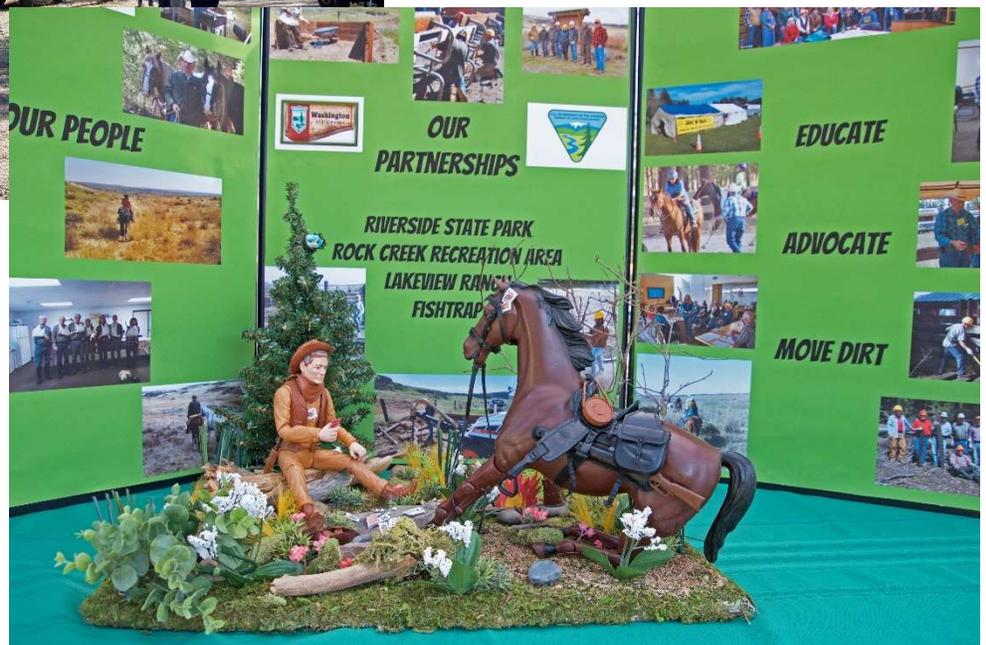


The winning poker hand won by Sandi Lunceford was four 8s. Second place won by Billie Steckler was four 4s. The worst hand was held by Erica Winter. Terri Kneeland guessed the closest to the number of items in the gallon jar. There were 326 and she guessed 325.

The funds will help further the BCH mission of keeping trails open.



Thank you to everyone that helped at and before the ride. All of us coming together makes it all possible. We will have discussions about what we want to do next.



# Is your Horse Ready for The Bob? Or any other wilderness trip?

**By Michelle Eames**

**(with assistance from Cindy Miller and Katy Fitzgerald)**

Cindy Miller and Michelle Eames recently had the pleasure of joining Katy Fitzgerald (a friend and previous P BCH member), and four other friends of Katy's, on a once-in-a-lifetime trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. We went with an outfitter, and rode their horses, not our own. We now have experienced highly skilled mountain horses, and will have higher expectations for our own mounts.

After comparing those stupendous mountain-horse skills, to our own trail horses, we came up with a list of things that a wilderness horse must know.

What does your horse need to know or do in order to have a safe trip into the Bob Marshall, or any other Wilderness?



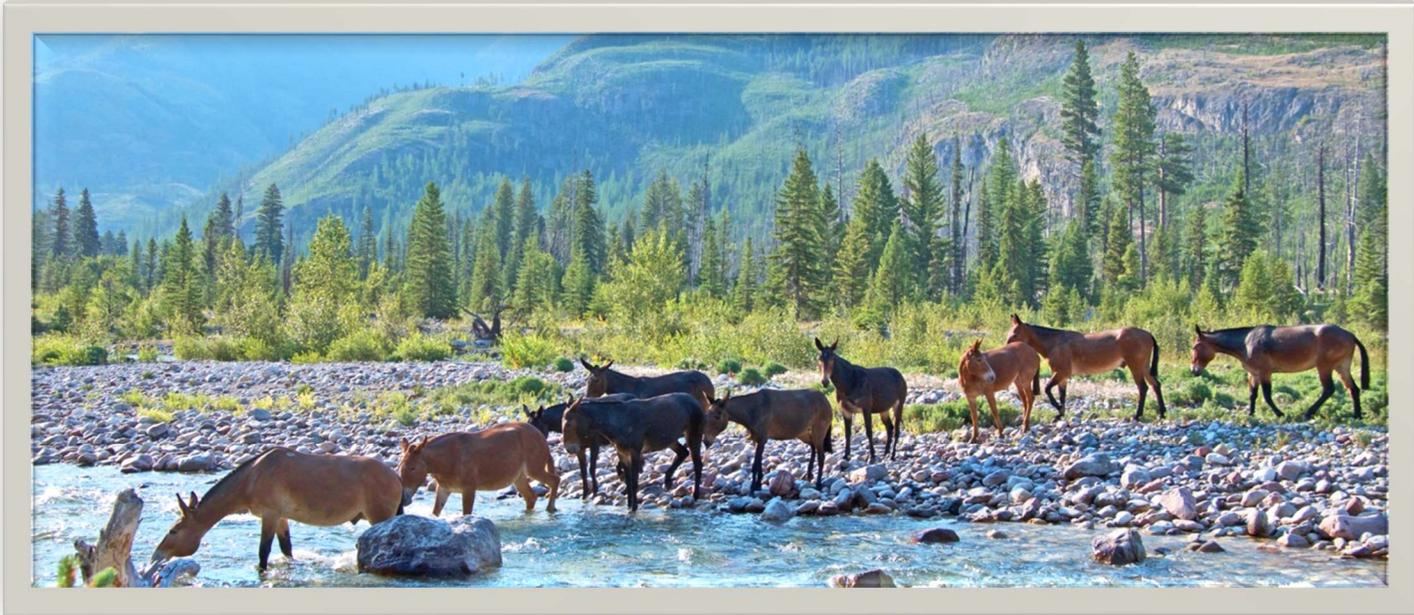
- Horse must be fit for long rides in steep country.
- The horse should tie anywhere, for any length of time.
- Must be tolerant of all other horses in close quarters, behind, in front or beside.
- Must be sure footed on all terrain: rocks, deep mud, loose soil, down hill, up hill, cliffs, and near cliffs.
- Must have good big feet and be shod. I am not convinced any kind of hoof boots would make it through some of the deep sucking mudholes.
- Must have no hesitation at narrow or wide water crossings, over large river rocks, and through deep or shallow water.
- Must be used to dragging ropes, getting caught in ropes, ropes under tail, and not panic!
- Horse must trust the human, human must trust the horse.
- Horse must relax, rest, and grab power naps where it can when it can.
- Horse must poop while walking. Distances are long, and delays are not allowed.

It was the best vacation ever! Going with an established outfitter was a great way for us to get experience in remote rough country on sure-footed trail horses. Would we do it again? In a second!





CHINESE WALL



# Rules of Horsemanship

## By Ken Carmichael

There are all kinds of rules for being around horses. I imagine that the two biggest are Leave No Trace (LNT) and Trail Etiquette. They cover a lot of ground.

I have another that I think hits home and I see broken all the time. I call it my "RULE OF FOUR". Basically, it states:

You need to know four things every time you leave the barn:

- Survival
- First aid
- Food and water
- How to get home

For each of these four items you also need the following:

- Know what to do
- Know how to do it
- Have the tools/equipment to do it
- Be willing to do it

Taken all together 4 times 4 gives you 16 things to think about. Then double that number because you are responsible for yourself and your HORSE.

I see way too many people riding that are unprepared to meet the above challenges if they occur. Ninety nine percent of the time we are fine but even a day ride can turn into a disaster. I do not think that any individual can be prepared for every circumstance but together we should. For example, a horse is cut badly. I carry one vet wrap, but I have seen where we pooled all the vet wrap on the ride to get the horse home.

Everyone will not have the same equipment and knowledge. But we should be carrying those items that we are comfortable using. In some cases, we should become more comfortable, such as with first aid, survival and map reading courses. We cannot always depend on a cell telephone or someone else to take care of us.

Here are some quotes provided by the Boating Safety Program Manager at the state park commission meeting that I thought applied to horses:

- A danger foreseen is half avoided
- Accidents hurt – safety doesn't
- If you don't know what is going to happen, there is a no way to stop it. Plan ahead for safety.

Riding is a fun sport, but we need to think about what we are doing and plan for the unexpected.

## **Rules of Thumb for Horses**

**By Michelle Eames**

**(with assistance from Carol Klar and Karen Rice)**

Here are a few rules that I have come across over the years, or developed for myself. Many of these I have learned their truth the hard way...

1. Never ride a horse through a barn doorway.  
*In middle school a friend of mine rode her horse from the paddock into the stall. The horse jumped the stall entry, crashing my friend's head into the top of the doorway. Several stitches resulted, and the rule was born.*
2. Never tie a horse by the reins.  
*I seem to relearn this every 10 or so years. My horse ties well, and I'm just running into the house for a minute, I'll just tie her by the reins. For future reference, Indiana Saddlery is great for repairing broken bridles.*
3. Always walk your horse the last mile home.  
*This is so they don't get in the habit of running home. A good habit to institute.*
4. No hoof, no horse.  
*Good hooves mean less lameness. Less lameness means more riding. More riding means more joy.*
5. If you aren't sure your horse is lame, ride them until they are.  
*I've heard this from veterinarians. If the lameness is off and on or barely there, ride them. If it gets worse, the vet can diagnose it more easily.*
6. That injury is far from the heart.  
*A wise horsewoman friend said this for most injuries. Most injuries are minor, and you can continue riding. A horse has about 12.3 gallons of blood in its body, so they need to lose a lot before they are in jeopardy. In other words, don't panic. But do call the vet if you think it is needed!*
7. Beware of grazing green grass in the spring.  
*To minimize risk of laminitis, minimize and gradually increase green grass grazing in the spring. Easy keepers are often prone to laminitis.*

8. You can't ride papers.

*A good horse is a good horse, registered or not.*

9. Always choose carefully who you ride with. Observe them with their horse — watch the interaction and how the horse responds.

*Know your horse, and know your horse buddies. If you like to walk on trail rides, don't go out with an endurance rider on a fast training ride. If you have a green horse, don't go out with a nervous nellie. Planning ahead and asking questions ensures a good fit, a safe ride, and a happy day!*

10. When approaching an oncoming horse, pass left hand to left hand.

*This is most helpful in arenas, and prevents horse wrecks or collisions when there are two or more horses in an arena. It works on the trail too, or you can clearly call out your intentions as the other horse approaches. Another similar issue is passing horses; clearly call out "passing on the left" or "passing inside". Communication is where it's at, especially when riding horses at speed.*

11. Never wear sandals around a horse.

*Always wear closed toed shoes. To see why, just google some of the images of horse stepping on uncovered human foot. I have been stepped on several times; but always had shoes on so the injury was minimized.*

12. A clean desk is a sign of a sick mind.

*Oh wait, that isn't about horses. Never mind!*



**Here are some more wise sayings I found at the Cowgirlmagazine website.**

<https://cowgirlmagazine.com/horse-proverbs/>

1. One white foot, buy him; two white feet, try him.
2. No hoof, no horse.
3. Green on green makes black and blue.
4. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.
5. A horse is worth more than riches.
6. Never look a gift horse in the mouth.
7. The buyer needs a hundred eyes, the seller not one.
8. All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he'll listen to me any day.
9. All horses deserve, at least once in their lives, to be loved by a little girl.
10. You're not a rider unless you've fallen off seven times.
11. A stubborn horse walks behind you, an impatient horse walks in front of you, but a noble companion walks beside you.
12. A good rider can hear his horse speak to him. A great rider can hear his horse whisper.
13. Your horse's behavior always seems to depend on the number of people watching you.
14. He knows when you're happy. He knows when you're comfortable. He knows when you're confident. And he always knows when you have carrots.
15. There are only two emotions that belong in the saddle; one is a sense of humor, and the other is patience.

**If you like these and want to see some more old sayings about horses, with some very detailed descriptions and interesting explanations, see this website:**

<https://www.thesprucepets.com/popular-horse-quotes-and-what-they-mean-1887400>

**And remember: A bad day with my horse is always better than a good day at the office.**

**Happy Riding! Michelle**

PBCH Member Linda White has been busy planning more events. See the ads for an obstacle clinic and an Equine Trail Sports event below!



## Tom Reed Horsemanship Obstacle Clinic

**Saturday, October 16, 2021**

**9 am to 4 pm**

A fun clinic for you and your horse to learn skills for in-hand and mounted obstacles.

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

\$225, Limited to 12 participants

Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/212174113723142>

For more info contact Linda White

Email: [linda43562@hotmail.com](mailto:linda43562@hotmail.com)

509-413-7392



# EQUINETRAIL SPORTS

## Ustengo Haunted Obstacle Challenge & Tournament



Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

Sunday, October 17, 2021



### *What Makes ETS Different?*

- Choose Your Challenge Level that best suits you and your horse at each obstacle!
- Enjoy new trails and make new friends at our family friendly events!
- Event registration is half price for all students!
- Membership is free to all students (7-22 years old)!
- No cost to register your equines!
- Obstacles are not timed!
- Events are open to all breeds of horses, donkeys and mules.
- Exciting tournaments for added fun!

### *Event Details*

Sunday, Oct 17, 2021

**In-Hand Obstacle Challenge  
Mounted Obstacle Challenge  
Bracket Tournament for High Scores**



Hosted By: Linda White

[Email\\_linda43562@hotmail.com](mailto:linda43562@hotmail.com)

509-413-7392

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area  
Spokane, WA

<https://www.equinetrailsports.com/event/12984>

*Ride for Fun, Ride to Learn.*

Trail Challenge. **Obstacle Course.** Recreation Ride.

**WWW.EQUINETRAILSPORTS.COM**





*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 other members with background on you or your horse.*

### ***PBCH Officers***

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