



# PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of  
Washington  
We Get it Done!



Many bull moose now out on the trails courting the ladies. This guy was seen locally on a trailride (telephoto lens). Photos by Cindy Miller.

## CALENDAR

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

**October 30, – BCHW Wine Ride at Zillah**

**November 2, - Membership meeting**

**November 13, 2021, 1-4 pm  
Planning Meeting @ the Carmichael's**

**December 7, - PBCH Membership meeting**

## **Notes from the PBCH President**

### **By Tom Birge**

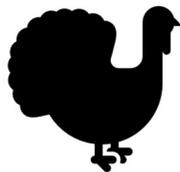
*In our recent meetings we have discussed having a planning meeting for all members so we can put together what you as members want to happen next year and beyond.*

*It really helps if we have input from everyone so, please plan to come with some ideas and thoughts of what you would like to see happen.*

*It will be held November 13, 2021 1-4 pm at  
Ken and Patti Carmichael's  
10804 W Seven Mile Rd.*

*We look forward to everyone participating! Please RSVP to me or Ken.*

*Thank you to the PBCH members who volunteered on October 23 to help with tree planting at the Rimrock to Riverside Project! There were many volunteers including several of our members who assisted in planting 2000 trees in this wildlife and recreation corridor.*



Happy Thanksgiving!!

# **Ponderosa in 2021**

## **By Ken Carmichael**

The following is an article I wrote for the Horse Preview Magazine. I think it is a pretty good summary of what PBCH has been doing in 2021. Also, it is a good lead in to our chapter planning meeting Saturday, November 13. There are many opportunities in PBCH, and we encourage everyone to participate, beginning with the planning.

### **Pulling Together for Equestrians**

#### **By Ken Carmichael**

As we near the end of the year, it is interesting to look back at what we have experienced in 2021 and the challenges ahead. It is easy to reflect on the difficult year we encountered but also rewarding to remember what has been accomplished.

**Ponderosa Back Country Horsemen** (PBCH) has been busy preserving and enhancing the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. We do this through education, advocacy and moving dirt. Fortunately, we are part of the **Back Country Horsemen of Washington** (BCHW) and the **Back Country Horsemen of America** (BCHA) who speak loudly and strongly at the state and national level on many issues affecting equestrians. As a chapter we provide input.

At the local level, we have had some fun on the educational front. We participated again this year at the Riverside State Park Foundation "Wednesday in the Woods" with a presentation on Trail Etiquette with a skit using stick horses, bicycle helmets and walking sticks. We developed and presented six classes on "My Horse and Me" for those families considering the purchase of their first horse. The interaction was great. We took 13 horses to the Calvary Bible School for the children to pet. A fantastic experience for young people to get up close to a horse. The kid's eyes were bigger than the horse's.

In cooperation with the **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) we pulled up seven miles of 4 strand barbwire. While this did not open any trails, it did cement a great relationship with BLM. Also, with BLM we installed 8 corrals, 3 picnic tables and 2 fire rings at the Escure Ranch, our favorite campsite. **Riverside State Park** saw us repair the arena fence, and repair and enhance the equestrian obstacle course which BCH had originally built. This concluded with an open house where PBCH highlighted the course and provided assistance to riders.

In addition, PBCH members enjoy rides and camping with our friends. The women only campout and ride at Ancient Lakes was a big hit. There are so many good riding locations in close proximity to Spokane that we cannot get to all of them in a year.

To help fund these activities PBCH held a Poker Ride in Riverside State Park. Besides the fun of the event, riders participated in the raffle and tack sale which was carried forward from the open house.

Did Covid slow us down? Yes, some. Our next step is to plan for 2022, which we are looking forward to. As we get back to monthly in person meetings, we will enhance our educational programs and social activities. If you are interested in participating please contact me at 509-466-2225 or [kcarmichael2225@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmichael2225@gmail.com). You can learn more about PBCH and BCHW at [www.pbchw.com](http://www.pbchw.com) and [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org). Hope you can join us.

Happy Trails.

## Newsletter Theme:

I received no contributions for fall color photographs, nor for favorite rides in this issue. 😞

Nonetheless, we received other great contributions to the newsletter, so welcome to the everything issue! 😊

Note that Melissa Halpin is starting a “Getting to Know Members” feature in this issue, and Patty Wright will intermittently provide an article for “Wayside Wildlife” beginning with this issue. Thanks Melissa and Patty!

We will continue the “everything goes” theme for the merged December/January issue next month, although ideas for potential holiday gifts for horses and horse people will also be appreciated.

Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor



**From Carol Klar, vice president and education coordinator**



Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> is our **Coveted Annual Soup Social!** 5:30pm  
Hayford Community Church, 5306 S. Hayford Rd.  
Come all and enjoy something yummy!



In keeping with the fun spirit of the evening, we are going to have an “Inclement Weather Show & Tell”. Please bring your items and ideas to share. Perhaps you have a coat or pair of boots that works great in the snow & rain? Gloves ? Maybe you’d like to recommend a special blanket that your horse wears?



Tom Birge's inclement weather gear. Posted here, since he can't bring it in to the November Meeting:

*Editors note: I think he forgot the warm oversized lap dog!*



## **2021 PBCH Calendar**

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

October 30, – BCHW Wine Ride at Zillah (see poster at the end of the newsletter)

November 2, - Membership meeting

November 13, 2021, 1-4 pm Planning Meeting @ the Carmichael's

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.

## **Membership Renewal**

### **By Ken Carmichael**

It is time to renew our membership in Back Country Horsemen. The easiest way is through the BCHW website. Simply go to [www.bchw.org](http://www.bchw.org). Click on members/join/renew. The drop down provides two things. One is to renew online, the first and best option. Second is to print the form for the Ponderosa chapter and mail it to the address on the form. If you cannot get on the website then please contact Diana Birge and she will send you a form.

No matter what method you use, renewing your membership is important. We are working hard to keep trails open for equestrians and we need your support.

## Coordinating With Spokane County Parks

Melissa Halpin has volunteered to be the PBCH representative to coordinate with County Parks for now, with an expectation that we may discuss this further in a member meeting. If you have interest or comments about coordinating with County Parks, please share your ideas at a meeting or contact Tom or Ken.

Melissa has already assisted County Parks with good results. At a recent ride she noticed serious erosion at Antoine Peak Conservation Area. She relayed this information to Paul Knowles, Special Projects Manager at Spokane County Parks and Recreation. He asked for a pinpointed location. Melissa provided an aerial map with the location shown. Paul said this information was helpful because the trail/road section with the erosion is under the care and maintenance of the “tower” organization. They had been scheduled to fix it, but it was good to know that they had not followed through,

Thanks to Melissa for volunteering to help, and potentially getting action on a problem!

*Michelle and Melissa @ Antoine Peak. Photo by Patty Wright.*



## E-Bikes on State Land

### By Ken Carmichael

I just received the following email from Kathy Young. Rather than summarize it I am providing the entire document. E-bikes usage is something BCH is watching very closely. In the near future we will be asking for your letters of support. Please watch for that request.

#### Here is Kathy's email:

I am just now following up on my previous email about e-bikes on Washington DNR and WDFW managed lands. the subject of e-bikes.

This is a subject that each member needs to be considering and to be available to comment on in a constructive way.

I spoke with Sam Jarrett at DNR, and they will be developing their draft policy and putting it out for comment, rather than taking comments and then developing the policy. So when the comment periods are announced BCHW members will need to have read and become familiar with the draft policy.

WDFW has a draft recreation strategy in the works. I will follow up with Joel Sisolak to see if that addresses e-bike use.

Please give thought to the following and let's discuss these things **BEFORE** DNR comes out with their draft policy.

- BCHW's stance is still that an e-bike is a motorized vehicle.
- We are concerned about more than just the e-bikes themselves , we are also concerned about any impact they would have on trail funding, based on motorized non-motorized trail designation. Is that going to be an issue on state DNR managed lands?
- We also want to consider how we feel about allowing e-bikes access to closed gated roads. It seems like that would be a better place for them than single track trails. Better sight distances , and depending on the road, equestrians seem to typically avoid roads. There is still the non-motorized designation question on closed gated roads.
- Signage : For trails that eventually will allow access for e-bikes will it be more clear if they are considered open unless signed "closed to e-bikes", or if they are closed unless signed "open to e-bikes". Subtle difference , but which is more clear for the general recreation user?
- And the bottom line, how do we make spaces for e-bike recreational use and not feel that equestrians are being pushed off the trail.

Kathy Young

PLC

**Carol Klar put together the following handout, with the hopes of sharing this broadly, including potentially at bicycle shops. We will discuss this at the November Meeting.**

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Yield? Sure, but WHY?

With many people enjoying our public trails these days, it's a good time to share some helpful safety information. Surprised horses can react erratically, potentially injuring riders or other trail users.



## What should you do when you encounter a horse?

**Stop.** — If you are hiking move off or to the side of the trail but remain in view. If you are biking, get off your bike. Yes, you should get off your bike. This helps the horse recognize that you are a human (versus some weird monster thing with wheels attached to it).

**Talk-!!!** — This is probably the most important thing you can do. If the horse sees you standing there and not saying anything, instinct tells it that you are a predator. Say hello to the rider and try to strike up a conversation. *This will calm the horse and also does wonders for relations between all trail users.* Talk about the weather or talk about the trail. After all we are all out there for the same reason, just doing it in different ways.

**Ask the rider what you should do.** — Sometimes the rider will ask you to continue walking or riding while they wait on the side of the trail. Sometimes they will pass through while you wait. Again, remember that horses have individual personalities, and only the horse's owner/rider knows that personality. Trust their judgment.

**Take EXTRA care if approaching the horse from behind.** — Horses can't see behind very well, so approaching from behind can be dangerous to both the equestrian and the hiker or biker. Again, communication is critical: gently announce, well in advance, to let them know that you are approaching from behind.

## What NOT to do when you encounter a horse

**Don't stand there silently.** — This makes the horse think you might be a predator and the horse might run as a result.  
**Don't speed past by the horse.** — This is almost certain to startle the horse which puts the equestrian and YOU in danger.  
**Don't do anything that might startle the horse.** — This might include yelling or making your brakes squeal.  
Remember that horses are animals with minds of their own, and they may not be acclimated to bike/ped traffic. Acting selfishly or without regard for others can endanger not only the horse and its rider, but you as well.

A safe outdoor adventure and pleasant encounters with fellow trail users is a good goal for all!

*Submitted 2021 by: Carol Klar, Ponderosa BCH Education Coordinator, Spokane, WA*

*With thanks to Website of Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy, Flint Hills, Kansas*



## Getting to Know PBCH Member Judy Babb

By Melissa Halpin

Getting introduced to horses was a natural for Judy Babb, being blessed to grow up on a farm. Judy grew up on a ranch near Plaza, Washington about 27 miles straight south of Spokane. Her father raised cattle with a herd around 100 head. At an early age, around 12, Judy was helping out on her first horse, "Pixie". Pixie was a smart horse and both tested and taught Judy about riding. But her mom was there to help. She introduced Judy's first quirt to keep Pixie's attention. Judy helped her dad herd the cattle around the farm.



And we are talking some serious herding. Back then, the range was open and many cattle ranchers herded their cow & calf pairs up to Turnbull Refuge to graze from spring until fall. I looked at a map and it seemed to be about a 12 mile one way distance. In the fall, Judy would help dad herd all the cows back to the ranch for winter. This arrangement was made with the Turnbull Wildlife Refuge administration. Later they changed their mind about the open grazing and stopped it in the early 1970's. I believe there were some brothers and a sister involved in helping with the cattle as well. I learned that another club member, Linda Daniels is Judy's sister. What do you know?

Mom was in the horse and cattle picture as well, being a leader in the local 4-H Club. The Babb family had a great recipe for a wholesome upbringing.

The wide-open Palouse was where Judy's adventure riding took place. Over the years, she had several horses. She was almost never without 1 and sometimes had 2 horses. Horses were a natural draw for Judy; she loves just being around them. Her horses provided a sense of wellbeing and peace.

I can just see all those lovely warm summer sunsets on the Palouse with Judy galloping her horse over the horizon.

Later, Judy attended WSU and joined the school Rodeo Club. How fun is that? They roped and tied goats and had contests. I forgot to ask if she has any ribbons or trophies?

Today, she said the last horse she will own is present day "Kota", a 12-year-old registered quarter horse mare. Kota is one the best horses she has owned, a natural learner, easy to handle and has a kind and forgiving nature. To Judy, mares have been her best horses, although she has owned a gelding or two.

Thank you, Judy Babb, for letting us get to know you!

## Wayside Wildlife

One of the perks of getting out on horseback in the Inland Northwest is seeing the wildlife that calls our region home. All of us see and hear the most common critters, like the whitetails and the turkeys, the coyotes and the crows, but do you ever see or hear one you're not sure about? When this happens, I like to come home and do a little research to find out more - what it is, where it typically lives, how common it is in our area, and any other interesting tidbits. I thought some of you might also be curious so it's my intent to share my observations and information. Hope you enjoy!

My most recent ride was on Antoine Peak. While driving there, I saw two birds flying fairly low across an open field. I was pretty certain they were some kind of raptor, but one I'd never taken note of before. They seemed to be a little larger than a crow, mostly dark on top with a longer, squarish tip on the tail, and the most obvious marking was a big white area at the top of the tail, on the bird's backside! It was a quick look because, as I said, I was driving and kind of had to pay attention to that...



Meet the Northern Harrier (Marsh) Hawk!

From the National Audubon Society [Field Guide to Birds \(Western Region\)](#) "This is the only North American member of a group of hawks known as harriers. All hunt by flying close to the ground and taking small animals by surprise...Harriers have keener hearing than other hawks; their disk-shaped faces, not unlike those of owls, enable them to amplify sound." Apparently they are quite common in the US and Canada, tend to nest near a marsh or in a shrubby meadow, and are usually silent. This last fact may be why I never noticed them before. After all, you can hear the red-tails from a mile off! My guess-timate of size was pretty close though. Crows are 17-21" long, and Harriers are 16-24".

So now you know a little about Harrier Hawks, and I hope you'll get to see one soon on an adventure of your own!

- By Patty Wright

## Safety Note

**By Doug Frederick, Safety Manager  
(but actually ghost written by his wife, Michelle Eames, with  
assistance from Carol Klar)**

We recently heard about an endurance rider getting lost, and inadvertently starting to ride a flagged thirty-mile loop a second time. By the time the ride organizers and the rider figured out she was misplaced, she was very tired and disoriented. Although she had phone reception, it was difficult to figure out her location. This story had a happy ending. The organizers found her and were able to haul her and her horse back to the ride staging area. Yay!

However, this does remind us to figure out how to use our ever-present smart phones to send a location to friends or emergency contacts. The magic is to practice it at home, with a friend, so you know how to do it in an emergency, or even in a non-emergency where you just want to say: "I'm here, where are you?"

Here is a link that shows how to share location from an iPhone or Android.

[https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-share-your-location-android-ios/?fbclid=IwAR2joPV09suwzqDs6fN\\_31hua-uehMG9cZUHMM8xzhewce1VN098IQRXgPA](https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-share-your-location-android-ios/?fbclid=IwAR2joPV09suwzqDs6fN_31hua-uehMG9cZUHMM8xzhewce1VN098IQRXgPA)

There are numerous methods, but the following excerpt is one method of how to share location within Google Maps. Try it with a friend!

1. Open the Google Maps app ([Android](#), [iOS](#)).
2. Tap your profile picture or initials at the top right. Sign in to your Google account if you haven't already.
3. Tap *Location sharing* and *Share location*.
4. Select how long you want to share your location.
5. Choose the people you want to share your location with (you may have to give Google Maps access to your contacts here). You can share your location with anyone in your contacts, provided you have added their Gmail address. You can also share your location directly with specific apps.
6. If you want to share with someone who doesn't have a Google account, tap *Copy to clipboard* on Android and paste the link into an email or message. On an iPhone, you can tap *More options* to send the link via iMessage or a different app.

Of course, we don't always have reception, and requesting help in remote areas requires different tools that we have shared in other newsletters. Remember that paper maps and a compass do not require batteries or reception! Practice with maps and compasses at home or in known locations too!

## **Ride on the Escure Ranch**

**By Ken Carmichael**

On October 9 and 10 we had some good rides on the BLM Escure Ranch south of Sprague. We fit the ride in just before rifle hunting season. The trails are all in very good condition. This is a great equestrian camp with 10 corrals, horse water, restroom and highline. We do need to figure out an effective and efficient way to empty the manure bunker. Any ideas are appreciated.

On Saturday Judy Personett joined Patti and me for a ride on the northern loop coming back to camp along Rock Creek. We are still exploring the best way to drop down from the northern boundary of the ranch to the creek but get better at it each time.

Sunday Patti and I rode to the falls before coming home.

This is a great place to ride and camp just 65 miles from home. Our next trip will be in early spring.

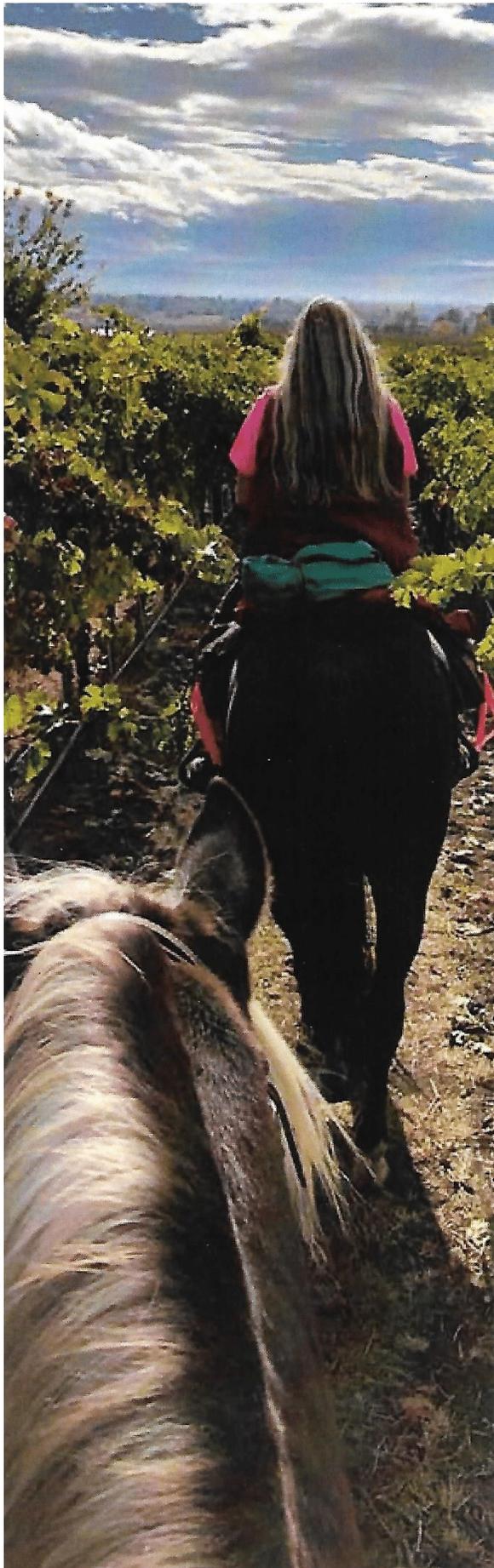
***We are happy to use the newsletter for PBCH member classified ads, including for sale, in search of, etc. Please send any ads to the newsletter editor.***

### **Want Ads:**



**WANTED:** small acreage suitable for a horse with small house or manufactured home for young couple. Preferably west of Spokane.

Contact Ken Carmichael [kcarmichael2225@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmichael2225@gmail.com) or 509-466-2225.



# SADDLE UP YOUR PONY & COME CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINERY RIDE!

It's been a long year and we can't think of a better way to say "Goodbye!" to our pandemic blues and "Hello!" to 10 wineries along the trail. Come ride your horse to various Yakima Valley wineries, sampling wines as you go. Transport available for purchases back to camp.

**When - Saturday, October 30, 2021**

**Where - In the Rattlesnake Hills wine growing area of the Yakima Valley**

Earlybird registration is \$25 or \$35 if postmarked after October 1

- Halloween costume contest & raffle prizes
- Wine tasting
- Catered dinners Friday & Saturday night
- Camping available (dry camping - no hookups or amenities)

Go to [BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org) or email [BCHWwineryride@gmail.com](mailto:BCHWwineryride@gmail.com) for complete details, including registration, costs, schedule, and directions.



A fundraiser for Back Country Horsemen of Washington, a non-profit, statewide organization working to ensure public lands remain open for stock use.



*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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