



PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington
"Educate, Advocate, and Move Dirt!"

Website: PBCHW.COM

MAY 2022



Patty Wright was the leader and organizer for the PBCH group ride at Slavin Conservation Area. Nine members participated in this group ride. It was a relaxing and fun day visiting with both new and long-time members and viewing the gorgeous scenery.

CALENDAR

*All events subject to change;
Watch facebook and emails.*

May 4- Ground Work Fun Day

May 7- Pre-Ride- Volunteers

May 10- Rehearsal Poker Ride

May 14 - Set Up Poker Ride

May 15- Poker Ride

May 18- Ground Work Fun Day

May 19-21- Ladies' Campout

May 24-PBCH Board Mtg

May 27-30 – Escure Ranch Campout

President's Report

By Tom Birge

On April 19 we met at Dee Dee Denison's and had a great demonstration of barefoot trimming and hoof boots by Lydia Friel Templeton. With the weather that we have had recently it was nice to be able to use Dee Dee's indoor arena. Thank you to Dee Dee and to Andrea and Rod Staton for bringing your horses.

We had a great turnout for the chapter's first planned ride at Slavin. Thanks to all that participated!

We have a busy May for the chapter, be sure to check the calendar and watch emails and facebook for all that is happening.

In October we will be electing officers: President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and Alternate Director. We will be forming a nominating committee in August. If you are interested in any of these positions or serving on the nominating committee let me know.

Michelle Eames has reviewed the PBCH library holdings. In coordination with the PBCH Board she will be working to streamline the library and to focus on educational books relevant to our mission statement, including "how to" books about trail riding, horse packing, camping, camp cooking, trails, and some horse care and training books. Once everything is fully organized and labeled, we will begin bringing the library to general meetings for members to check out books. The few books we have that do not fit our educational or mission goals will be offered to members at PBCH meetings on a first come first serve basis.

If you have any suggestions or referrals for guest speakers or seminars let Carol Klar know so we can continue these informative membership meetings. If you've missed our meetings this year you have missed out on a lot of good information. We look forward to future educational meetings!

**Thanks,
Tom**

Director's Report-- BCHW Bylaw Changes

By Ken Carmichael

A committee has been changing the BCHW bylaws. The primary change is the creation of an Executive Committee. The BCHW Board will delegate some activity to the EC. The BCHW Board reviewed these changes in April. The new bylaws will be printed in the Trailhead News for all members to see.

If you have any questions or comments please contact me. The BCHW Board will take final action on the bylaws at the June 18 Board meeting.

Highline Kits-- Still Available

By Ken Carmichael

Ponderosa BCH has put together a highline kit which is being offered for sale. Before offering it to the general public we want chapter members to have an opportunity to buy them. We have only made 12. The price is \$40 for the package and can be picked up at my house or at a PBCH meeting for as long as they last. We can also provide instruction on highline installation using the Bowline and Truckers knots.



PONDEROSA BCH 2022 Planning Calendar (as of 4/28/22)

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

[Consider printing this page to keep dates handy]

*designates items with more info later in the newsletter

April April 26- PBCH Board Meeting	September September 6- PBCH General Meeting (may move date) Sept. 24: Mt. Spokane, led by Ken and Patti Carmichael September 27- PBCH Board Meeting
May May 4- Ground Work Fun Day for members* May 7- Pre-Ride for Poker Ride Volunteers* May 10 – PBCH General Meeting; dress rehearsal for poker ride at Riverside SPEquestrian Area; 5:30 Snacks and social; 6pm Meeting May 14 – Set up equipment for poker ride May 15 – Poker Ride (Sunday)* May 18- Ground Work Fun Day for Members* May 19, 20, and 21- Ladies' Campout May 24-PBCH Board Meeting May 27-30 – PBCH Escure Ranch campout and ride (Memorial Day weekend) May 28-30, ETS event at Riverside Equestrian Area*	October October Member Ride, time and location TBD October 1-2 - Camping at Escure (tentative) October 4 - General Meeting; potluck; Elections October 15-16- ETS event at Spokane Sporthorse Farm* October 25-PBCH Board Meeting October 28-29 - Zillah Wine Ride
June June 7- PBCH General Meeting; Knotty Girls and Rope Halters June 19- PBCH Trautman Member Ride - Carol K.	November November 1- PBCH General Meeting; soup social November 29- PBCH Board Meeting
July July 12 PBCH Meeting July 9: Mica Peak Member Ride, led by Melissa Halpin and Patty Wright July 9-10, ETS event at Riverside Equestrian Area* July 26- PBCH Meeting, Potluck, and Boating July 29-31- Ferry county chapter steak ride.	December December 6 – PBCH General Meeting; Christmas Party
August August 9- PBCH Meeting, Potluck and Play Day at Dee Dee's; nominating committee for officers selected August 13: Antoine Peak, led by Andrea and Rod Staton August 30- PBCH Board Meeting	<p>Other events can be found here: https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php</p>

Poker Ride

By Ken Carmichael

Here are some important dates:

- Tuesday, May 3 – Pre-registration ends
- Saturday, May 7 – Volunteer pre-ride for chance to see the trail
- **Tuesday, May 10 – Dress rehearsal for the ride**
- Saturday, May 14 – Set up of registration area and other details
- **SUNDAY, MAY 15 – POKER RIDE**

Here is a little more detail:

- Those that want a discounted price for the poker ride must have their registration in by May 3.
- Many people work at the poker ride but do not have an opportunity to see the entire trail. So, on Saturday, May 7 we will have a ride **for the poker ride volunteers**. Come and see what the participants will experience. A ride announcement is attached to this newsletter.
- On May 10 for our membership meeting, we will meet at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm [social and snacks at 5 30]. We will review how the poker ride runs. This is important as having a well-informed crew makes the event run smoothly and we have happy participants. It is important that our volunteers come to this meeting. I will be sending out detailed instructions for everyone to follow. I will also let you know what your responsibilities are in advance. I provide information about the entire event but I ask that you become familiar with your role.
- On Saturday, May 14 three people will be at the registration area to help Doug Bailey set up the garages.
- **On Sunday, May 15, everyone is needed at the poker ride. WE ARRIVE AT 7:00 AM. THIS IS NECESSARY TO SIGN IN WITH CAROL KLAR WITH VOLUNTEER INFORMATION (TRAVEL TIME AND MILEAGE, ROUND TRIP) AND HELP SET UP CANOPIES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT).** We stay until the work is done which could be as early as 3:00 pm.

This is our biggest event of the year and our only fundraiser. We need your help. If you have questions or comments please call me at 509-466-2225. It is a fun day so come enjoy making it all happen.

EVENT DESCRIPTION FOR MAY 7 PRE-RIDE

EVENT (RIDE, WORK PARTY, SEMINAR, CLINIC, ETC.): Ride for poker ride volunteers

DATES/START TIME: Saturday, May 7, meet in the stirrups at 10:00 am

LOCATION: Riverside State Park Equestrian Area around the arena. Another event that day so we will park in the parking lot next to the outhouse.

PERSON TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION (NAME, EMAIL & TELEPHONE):
Ken Carmichael kcarmichael2225A@gmail.com 509-466-2225

PERMITS/RESTRICTIONS/CERTIFIED HAY REQUIREMENTS: Discover Pass

FACILITIES/WATER/FEED: Water on site

EVENT DESCRIPTION (TRAIL DESCRIPTION, LENGTH, DIFFICULTIES, TYPE WORK, TYPE TRAINING, ETC.): Ride will be about 2 ½ hours over trail we will use for the poker ride. Riverside is a rocky place.

SPECIAL FEATURES (POTLUCK, ENTERTAINMENT, SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, ETC.): You may want to pack a lunch

GENERAL DIRECTION AND DISTANCE FROM SPOKANE: Northwest of Spokane. Part of the park is within the city limits

ROAD CONDITIONS: Paved to equestrian entrance then about a half mile of gravel

DIRECTIONS TO EVENT OR RENDEZVOUS POINT: Directions to site attached to this newsletter

RSVP REQUIREMENTS AND CONTACT INFORMATION: RSVP not required unless you want to be notified of any emergency changes.

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE A "PERSONAL EMERGENCY PLAN" AND LEAVE IT WITH PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT. ALSO, YOU SHOULD HAVE APPROPRIATE FIRST AIDE, SURVIVAL, NAVIGATION AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Liability Releases will be signed at the trailhead
- Please practice Leave No Trace
- Participants under 18, and not accompanied by a parent or guardian, must have a "Permission to Treat" Statement

**RIVERSIDE STATE PARK
EQUESTRIAN AREA
SPOKANE WASHINGTON**

DIRECTIONS: There are 7 trailheads in the park, see maps. The main equestrian trailhead is at the Equestrian Area at the south end of the park. Other trailheads can be found on a map.

If coming from the west on I-90 take Exit 272, cross over the freeway, then turn right on Hayford Road and a quick left to be headed north on Hayford Rd. Go through the light at Highway 2 and past the Northern Quest Casino. The road takes a natural right then a natural left which puts you on Trails Rd. In about 2.5 miles from the natural left turn you turn left on Equestrian. If you start going uphill you have gone too far. Note the name was recently changed to Equestrian Lane from Aubrey L White Parkway. On Equestrian Lane go about ¼ mile and turn right through the white gate.

If coming from the east to keep from driving through city traffic we recommend that you stay on the freeway through Spokane and take Exit 277 to Highway 2 and Davenport. From the exit go 3.3 miles to Flint Road, this is the first light. Take a right on Flint Road and go 2 miles to Hayford Road. This is the stop sign at a "T" intersection. Turn right on Hayford Road which turns into Government Road. After taking the right go 2.3 miles to Equestrian Lane. If you start going uphill you have gone too far. Go left on Equestrian Lane. Note, the name was recently changed to Equestrian Lane from Aubrey L White Parkway. On Equestrian Lane go about ¼ mile and turn right through the white gate.

If coming from the north come south from Francis Ave on Division to Indiana and go west to merge into Northwest Blvd. **OR** from Francis go south on Ash to Northwest Blvd and turn right. Go west on Northwest Blvd to NT J Meenach Dr. There is a left hand turn lane to go left (south) on Meenach Dr. Meenach Dr. changes to Whistalks Way as you cross the Spokane River. Stay on Whistalks Way to the "T" intersection and turn right onto Government Way, which changes into Trails Road. In just about a mile and a half turn right on Equestrian Lane (at the bottom of the hill and before climbing again). Note the name was recently changed to Equestrian Lane from Aubrey L White Parkway. On Equestrian Lane go about ¼ mile and turn right through the white gate. This is a gravel road. The campground will come up on your left. The day parking and arena are further up the hill.

AMENITIES:

Equestrian camping with corrals (3402 N Equestrian Ln), some with electrical hookups

Concrete outhouses

Arena

Round Pen

Trail course

Miles of multiuse trails

9,000 acres

REQUIREMENTS:

Discover Pass (unless on special days or camping).

The reservation system for the campground closes on October 1 so camping is on a first come first serve basis after September 30. If the campground fills up then dry camping is allowed in the adjacent field. Camping fees still apply when using the overflow camping area.

Rimrock to Riverside Celebration and Ride

By Craig Volosing

The occasion here is to invite you (and your equine friend) to a spring ride in some “front country” on Saturday, May 14 (yes, the day before our Poker Ride).

Palisades Park By Horseback

Bring your equine partner and enjoy a springtime ride for an overview of the Indian Canyon – Palisades Park trail system. Mid-way on our ride, we will join the celebration of “Rimrock to Riverside”, the wonderful new addition to the Park. This activity will start and end at the large, special event parking area located on the south side of Greenwood Rd. This is midway between Indian Canyon Drive and Rimrock Drive. The gate will open for truck and trailer parking at 9:30 am. We’ll have “feet in the stirrups” and “forward, ho!” at 10:15 am. The ride will be led by Craig Volosing. Estimated time of return to trucks and trailers is 2:30 pm.

This event we are riding to is presented by the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. INLC took the lead in making the “Rimrock to Riverside” addition to Palisades Park possible. In the future, all non-motorized recreationists will be able to ride from Indian Canyon, thru Palisades Park and on into Riverside State Park!! Your Ponderosa chapter has played a significant role in support of the Rimrock-to-Riverside project. Let’s make sure all those folks see a good showing of equestrians at this event!

What to do:

- Learn more and register for the ride at https://inlandnwland.org/spring_on_the_rim/ . This will help INLC in planning for the day.
- Bring a lunch. You will note that there will be a food truck at the event but 1) who knows how long the line will be (?) and 2) there will be very little opportunity/place to tie your horse up while you stand in that line!
- If you have additional questions, email Craig Volosing at ipsc.cdvolosing@att.net

Happy trails!

Ponderosa Members - Ladies Campout
By Carol Klar



Date Changed to May 19, 20, and 21.

If you have signed up for this trip, please have a look at the recent updates in the Facebook Members Only page.

This is a “full house”, so if you need to cancel, please let me know at your earliest convenience, so we can give the spot to someone else. Thank you! Details will be e-mailed to each participant the week ahead of the outing. In the meantime, if you have questions, please email me: Carol Klar – cklar32@gmail.com

Ground-work Fun Event

Dates: May 4 and/or May 18

Time: 6-8PM

Location: Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

There is still room, especially in the second event. Contact Carol Klar for more information!

Ponderosa member Linda White has volunteered to lead two Ground Work sessions for PBCH members. Linda has attended four Buck Brannaman clinics; two Clinton Anderson clinics; Carson James clinic, Ann Kirk clinic; worked with Gerry Cox and trains with Julie Stephens of Leading Edge. Linda is an ETS (Equine Trail Sports) competitor with her lovely Mustang, Angus. She also organizes several ETS events each year.

This activity is best suited to people who are somewhat inexperienced (or rusty) at doing groundwork or who are working with a new or green equine or those needing a refresher. However, everyone is welcome.

The exercises are designed to improve communication between horse and rider (handler) and tune up ground manners. Topics that will be covered are: basics of leading, backing, yielding hind and fore quarters, and sending. The class will proceed as warranted by participants. Members who would like to observe are welcome (no donation required).

←-- (Tear here and submit form below with your payment) --→

Ground Work Fun Event at Riverside State Park

Time: 6-8PM

Donation: \$15

Each session is limited to 6 participants, and participants must be current-paid Ponderosa Members.

Payment is needed to reserve your spot.

Registrations are due 10 days in advance of the activity. Thank you!

- Register by 4/24 for the 5/4 session
- Register by 5/8 for the 5/18 session

Registrations will be accepted in the order received. If more than 12 members register, a waitlist will be kept. Registration will open at our March 1st meeting. Cash, check and credit cards will be accepted. These funds will go towards Poker Ride gift certificates!

Date Choice – circle one: May 4th May 18th (these are both Wednesday evenings)

Your Name: _____

Best way to contact you:

- Email: _____
- Text: _____
- Phone: _____

Payment Method: _____

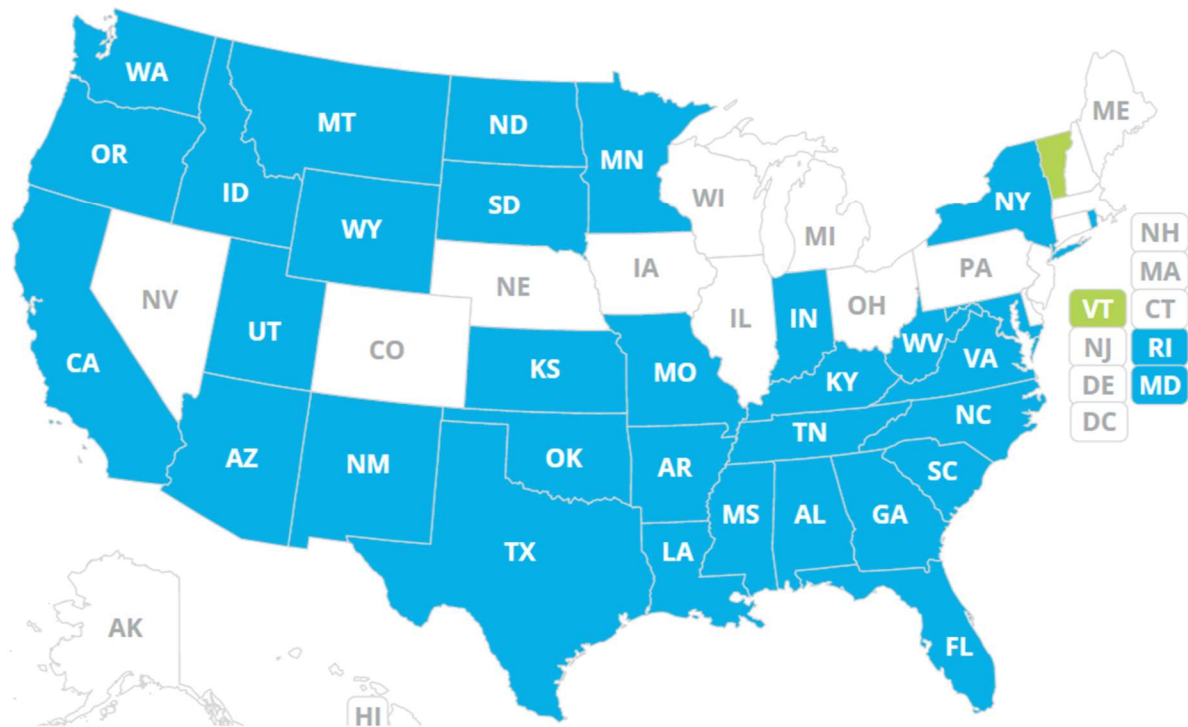
Payment Received Date: _____

Important Updates to Equine Travel requirements

EECVI Participating States

Acceptance of these six month equine health certificates continues to grow among states. [Find out why.](#)

Participating states: AL, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NM, NY, OK, OR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT*, WA, WV and WY. (*Vermont only participates May 1 – October 31.) Hover over a state in the interactive map to learn more about state ID requirements.



<https://www.globalvetlink.com/eecvi/>

Ah yes, spring is coming (hopefully), and we'll be once again traveling and trail riding with our equines. Out-of-state travel has gotten a bit easier this year, now that more states are participating in the Extended (6-month) Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection-EECVI, available through Global Vet Link. Once your veterinarian completes a basic health assessment and Coggins test on your equine, he/she can file the results in GVL, and then you can create your own travel permit for the locations you plan to visit.

Feel free to drop me a note if you have questions about this process. Cklar32@gmail.com

Carol Klar, Ponderosa BCH, Washington

Our theme for the May issue is “Safety on the Trail”.

Spring Riding

By Ken Carmichael

It is spring, the saddles are cleaned, the house is moderately clean, the Super Bowl is over, and the taxes are paid. Now it is time for the fair-weather riders to be back in the saddle.

There are some options for trail riding. One is the tranquility of riding alone. Another is with one or two friends as you talk about the good times. Yet another is to ride in a group. Now here you may have a choice of riding at the rear, middle or front of the group. However, if you decide to ride at the front you should be prepared to hear some of the following conversation.

- ✓ Did you bring a flashlight?
- ✓ Do you have a compass and know how to use it?
- ✓ I wish Janet were here, she knows this trail.
- ✓ I wish Mike were here, he has been on this trail before.
- ✓ I was here once before but rode at the back of the group and did not pay attention.
- ✓ Did you bring a raincoat?
- ✓ I told my husband/wife that I would be home for dinner, does not look like it now.
- ✓ If nothing is familiar in half an hour we should turn around.
- ✓ Do you have any lunch left?
- ✓ This trail does not look familiar
- ✓ Did we pass this point before?
- ✓ I am sorry that I left my coat at the trailer.
- ✓ I am out of cell range.
- ✓ I did not put new batteries in the GPS, and it is dead.
- ✓ I can't figure out this faded map
- ✓ At the next junction we will just flip a coin
- ✓ Those clouds sure are dark
- ✓ This ride is longer than I expected.
- ✓ I guess that navigation course would have been a good idea.

Trail riding is fun, but we must be prepared, even on a day ride, to ensure that we come home safely. This includes first aid, survival skills, food and water and knowing the way home. It is dangerous to blindly follow a leader, something may happen to him/her and it will be up to you.

Happy Trails!

From Louise Walton:

It is high water time and those of us that ride where there are streams/rivers, like Rustlers Gulch, need to heed some basic safety tips for fording a stream. They are running pretty high at RG now but not as high as we have crossed them in years past. So this article might be of interest to members to keep in mind.

HOW TO FORD A RIVER

View from Above The contours of a riverbed can be seen from a high vantage, where the sun doesn't cause a glare on the water's surface. Rivers follow predictable sequences of riffles, runs and pools. Even in turbid water, a rider can "read" a river to determine the safest crossing. The brightness or darkness of the water indicates depth and remember the adage that "calm waters run deep." An easy way to find a safe crossing is to look for game trails to determine where animals entered and exited the water.

Shallow is Safest Shallow depth is the first priority, followed by slow current speed. For every inch a horse's legs and body submerge, the force of water against them increases exponentially. And buoyancy actually works against a horse's ability to maintain contact with the riverbed. A fast-moving riffle that's only 12 inches deep might be safer than a slow-moving pool that's 3 feet deep.

No Restrictions Before entering the water, remove whatever tack could hamper your and your horse's movements: lead rope, mecate, lariat, martingale, chaps, spurs. Kick your feet out of the stirrups and pull your knees up towards the pommel. Too often, riders sweep their legs behind them, which rocks their bodies into a precarious position that's difficult to get out of if a horse capsizes. As a rule, in case of an emergency, eject from the saddle and get clear of your horse.

Downstream and Diagonal Anyone who's gone river walking knows that it's easiest to walk with the current, not upstream against it. The same goes for horses. As a four-legged animal, when a horse walks downstream its back legs break water for its front, creating a pocket of calm water for the front hooves to walk in. Use this to your benefit by fording in a diagonal direction downstream. If upstream is the only option, maintain a sharp diagonal bearing. The worst a rider can do is ride perpendicular to the current, which lets the river blast all four of the horse's legs

Eyes Fixed Ashore Rushing water can give a rider vertigo. Dizziness is especially dangerous because it compromises your balance in the saddle and causes you to give your horse miscues with your reins. Combat vertigo by focusing on a fixed point on the far shore. If dizziness encroaches, take hold of the saddle horn and close your eyes.

Free Rein The worst thing a rider can do is use his reins to micromanage a horse's movement midstream. Fording is an exercise in trust; the horse can "feel" the riverbed, even if you can't see it. Give a loose rein, making only broad directional cues. At a certain point in a river crossing, a horse commits to getting across. Trust that he'll get you there.

Written by Ryan T. Bell, Contributing Editor for Western Horseman, January 2014.

The Ten Essentials

The following discussion and list of 10 essentials was copied from the REI website (<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html>). Use this list as you think about what to carry in your saddle bags.

The original Ten Essentials list was assembled in the 1930s by The Mountaineers, a Seattle-based organization for climbers and outdoor adventurers, to help people be prepared for emergency situations in the outdoors. Back then, the list included a map, compass, sunglasses and sunscreen, extra clothing, headlamp/flashlight, first-aid supplies, fire starter, matches, knife and extra food.

Over the years, the list has evolved to a “systems” approach rather than including individual items. Here’s what it looks like today:

1. **Navigation:** map, compass, altimeter, GPS device, personal locator beacon (PLB) or satellite messenger
2. **Headlamp:** plus extra batteries
3. **Sun protection:** sunglasses, sun-protective clothes and sunscreen
4. **First aid** including foot care and insect repellent (as needed)
5. **Knife** plus a gear repair kit
6. **Fire** matches, lighter, tinder and/or stove
7. **Shelter** carried at all times (can be a light emergency bivy)
8. **Extra food** Beyond the minimum expectation
9. **Extra water** Beyond the minimum expectation
10. **Extra clothes** Beyond the minimum expectation

The exact items from each system that you take can be tailored to the trip you’re taking. For example, on a short day hike that’s easy to navigate you might choose to take a map, compass and PLB, but leave your GPS and altimeter behind. On a longer, more complex outing, you might decide you want all those tools to help you find your way. When deciding what to bring, consider factors like weather, difficulty, duration, and distance from help.

Trailer Tire Check up

Editors note: I had my trailer inspected and maintained this Spring. Turns out I was not inflating my tires to the maximum as recommended. The following is a summary of an article in EQUUS Magazine. The complete article can be found here: <https://equusmagazine.com/horse-care/trailer-tires/?fbclid=IwAR3ENjxBE5s-exScsgHFgcGlZrNdUWvkiTp-giEWfCEnMwiWwIYfZSy-Ghk>

The best way to deal with a roadside emergency is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

1. Make sure you have the right tires

Radial versus bias ply and the load index all matter. Work with your tire supplier to make sure you have the right tire.

2. Replace your tires regularly

Age is a more important factor than mileage in determining when to replace trailer tires. Rubber, plastics, glues and other components of a tire will dry out and deteriorate over time. The structure can become brittle and start to crack—a condition called dry rot. Heat and the stresses of the road may cause a tire with dry rot to explode.

Check your tires for dry rot and for age. .

Six years is often the recommended life for trailer tires. You'll find the week and year your tire was manufactured printed on the sidewall. (The printed side may be facing toward the inside.) Look for a string of letters and numbers after "DOT": The last four digits are the week and year of manufacture. So a DOT number that ends in "3215" indicates the tire was made the 32nd week (August) of 2015.

3. Check tire pressure before each trip

Having the correct air pressure inside all of your tires (including your spare) is critical to a safe, comfortable drive. If it's too high, the tire will stretch outward like an overfilled balloon, and less of the tread will have contact with the ground. This gives you less traction, with longer stopping distances, and causes a rough, bouncy ride. Too low, and the sidewalls will buckle and flex, which can cause it to overheat and blow. Low tire pressure can also reduce your fuel efficiency and

shorten the life of the tire. Finally, all of the tire pressures need to be equal; if one is too low, the others will be overloaded, which increases the risk of blowout.

“I recommend that my customers run their tires at the maximum pressure indicated by the manufacturer on the sidewall of the tire,” says Barnes. “Trailer tires carry significant weight, and by running them at the maximum pressure you help the tire to run cooler.” The number will most likely be expressed as pounds per square inch (psi). You may also see “kPa,” which is kilopascals, a metric measurement used internationally.

4. Protect tires when not in use

Exposure to the elements—including sunlight, ozone, heat and wetness—can accelerate dry rot. Ideally, you would park your trailer in a climate-controlled barn or garage when it’s not in use. If that’s not an option, consider taking other measures to protect your tires.

Parking in a dry, shaded area is best. Tire covers, available in both single and tandem styles, are relatively inexpensive and can help keep the sunlight off of your wheels while the trailer is parked. For longer term storage, consider using a cover for the entire trailer, which will also cover the wheels.

It’s also a good idea to clean off any dirt or grime before leaving the trailer tires parked in storage. Simply spraying them down with a high-pressure hose will remove the worst mud.

Safety

By Ken Carmichael

Safety is my favorite subject. We start with being around a thousand-pound animal, who has the mentality of a three-year-old and the answer to most problems is run rather than fight. That is a recipe for problems eventually.

I have said some of this before but will repeat it here. There are four things to consider whenever we leave the barn on horseback:

- First aid
- Food and water
- Protection against the elements (survival)
- How are we going to get home

For each of the above issues we have to consider the following:

- Do we know what to do?
- Do we have the equipment?
- Do we know how to use the equipment we have?
- Are we willing to do it?

Since there are 4 considerations and 4 issues with each that gives us 16 things to think about (4X4). Then you can double that figure to 32 because we are responsible for not only ourselves but also our horse.

It starts with education. There is not room in this article to cover everything. I will say that we need classes on the significant issues and we need to have the equipment with us. I see lots of people riding without any equipment.

We cannot anticipate every problem we may encounter, but we can prepare ourselves in general. It is up to each one of us to be prepared and not depend on others to solve our problems, but we can expect help.

One war story. BCH ride years ago. Horse's leg severely cut on a culvert. We needed lots of gauze and vet wrap. No one carries the amount we needed but together we got the horse out of the mountains.

When I meet bicyclists on the trail I comment on the fact that if they are hurt their bike will lay down beside them. My horse will take me home. I depend on him as a partner and he needs to be trained to do just that.

Another issue is electronics. I am not big on them, usually a problem. I do carry a Personal Locator Beacon when out further, like the Escure Ranch. As for finding your way, I get lost in a closet. The best answer for me is to pay attention and carry a map and compass.

What training have you had, what equipment do you carry, do you know how to use what you carry and are you prepared to do it?

Baby It's Cold Outside

By Michelle Eames (previously published as a blog at MichelleEames.com)

Mark Twain said, “The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco.”

This saying needs to be revised to: “The coldest winter I ever spent was April in Eastern Washington.”

I write this on April 14 as once again little white flakes are drifting down from the sky. The wind chill in the past two weeks has been, well, frigid. This would normally be the time to start getting miles on my horse, and putting the garden in. Instead I am hunkering inside. At least I can catch up on my writing. As I write this, the sound of the heater fan is hard to separate from the sound of the wind howling outside.



I do remember experiencing snows in April before, especially in the Cascade Mountains, but also down lower in the Columbia Basin. I remember when we first moved to Spokane from western Washington, and I experienced “thunder snow” for the first time. I love thunderstorms, and thunder with snow was very cool. Literally. I wouldn't mind a little thunder snow now since those storms roll through quickly and then are gone. Instead, the cold fronts this spring are just hanging on, taunting us, keeping us inside.

I used to ride in frigid weather, but I find myself wimping out more these days. I rode yesterday, but it was a short ride on the property. My horse Vali and I are going stir crazy. As we rode in the paddock, he kept looking through our fence line trees to the neighbor's yard. Vali was looking for the neighbor dog to come running up, so he would have an excuse to shy and bolt a few strides. It's an ongoing game that I am tiring of, but at least it gave me something to work on, keeping his focus on me, instead of simply riding never ending trot circles in the dirt. We need to get out on the trail.

My horse doesn't sweat much under the saddle like other horses do, I don't know why, maybe it is his thick strong draft horse skin. I've also never seen him shiver like many thin-skinned horses, not even in the coldest windy wet weather. Fjord horses are built fjord tough. Cold does not bother them. Why do other horses shiver? It warms them up by making the hair stand on end to better insulate them. If your horse is shivering, feed them grass hay. The digestion of the fibrous hay warms them up. If they continue to look miserable move them to a barn or put a blanket on. My fjord horses meanwhile will be happily standing out in the weather with snow piling on their backs and ice crystals forming on their whiskers.

I do carry a light horse blanket in my trailer for use after lessons when my horse is sweaty (only on his chest and neck) and the air is cold. I blanket him just to haul him home and keep the wind chill under control in my open trailer. I carry a big orange slicker in my trailer, too, in case I misjudge the weather at a trailhead or forget my lighter raincoat. I have a space blanket in my emergency kit in my saddle bags, along with matches and a candle. Like a horse, if I am cold, I need to eat so I carry a bag of emergency peppermints. I don't like being cold, and it can be dangerous if you are too cold for too long. So on the trail I am prepared for an emergency overnight in the woods with supplies for food and warmth. Hopefully I won't need to use them. Hopefully spring will emerge out of our winter chill, and bloom like sunflowers under the pines.

Longing to go horse camping!

As I start to write this article, I think about the previous years where temperatures were nice enough in parts of Eastern Washington, that I had been horse camping already in March! Ahhhh yes 🌟. Even though this isn't one of those "ideal years", I'd like to share some of my favorite desert locations which are good for early-season visits. Any questions, please email me at cklar32@gmail.com – Carol Klar, Ponderosa BLM

Property Name: Ancient Lakes

Property type: WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Pass: Yes, Discover Pass if parking at Trailhead.

Location: Quincy, WA ([link to Lower Trailhead and parking](#))

Distance from our meeting place: **140 miles.** Paved until about 3.5 miles from Lower Trailhead. At that point, it is gravel road that is often washboard.

Camping: Yes, some public some private. Corrals at most. Many options. Email for details.

Water: At private campground. Others vary.

Trail Description: Lots of trails ranging from easy to very technical. All have gorgeous views. From Lower trailhead, you'll see rock formations, waterfalls and lakes. Northwest of there, the trails will take you to the Columbia River with beautiful vistas along the way.

Traffic: You'll likely see hikers and perhaps another horse here and there. Weekends are much busier than weekdays. Watch for special events that might jam the park.

Footing: This can vary widely, depending on which trails you ride. As the season progresses, rocks become more exposed. Shoes or boots are suggested for your equines.

Notes of interest: you can ride up to Cave B winery and go wine tasting! Not much trail signage.

Cautions: Best in cooler weather since area will have rattlesnakes during hot weather. F-18 fighter jets are often seen overhead doing training exercises over the Columbia River. I've not seen horses react to this, but wanted to mention it. Also, **Dogs must be on leash thru July**; this is to help keep nesting wildlife and their babies safe. This is for any WDFW location. (another example is Rustler's Gulch).

Ancient Lakes – 4/25/21



Property Name: *Lakeview Ranch*

Property type: BLM

Pass: no

Location: Odessa, WA ([link to Trailhead parking](#))

Distance from our meeting place: 76 miles. Paved until about 3 miles out, then gravel road that is in good condition if approaching from the north / east. Usually washboard if approaching from the south.

Camping: Yes. 18 corrals, although limited vehicle parking near corrals. More parking is available at the Pacific Lake area right across the street. No Reservations. Please be sure to clean up after your horses. There is a dumpster on the parking loop and a manure bunk on the north side of the horse corrals.

Water: Not at this time since well pump is broken. Hopefully this will be fixed at some point.

Trail Description: Lots of lovely trails, most are fairly easy riding. Lovely views of rock structures. Cows may be grazing, so be sure to close any gates that you open.

Traffic: generally light, but a few weekends in the spring have events. Check before going.

Footing: early season we ride barefoot, but as things dry out, hoof protection is suggested.

Notes of interest: You can ride from here to the town of Odessa! It's about 12 miles one way. Not much trail signage.

Cautions: Best to ride before it gets hot since area will have rattlesnakes. Also, there can be dangerous bogs. Stay well away from edges of lake and ponds.



Left: ride photo from 1/14/21 at Pacific Lake area of Lakeview Ranch

Below: Lakeview Camping Loop – 5/6/21



Property Name: *Escure Ranch-Rock Creek*

Property type: BLM

Pass: no

Location: Endicott, WA ([link to Trailhead parking](#))

Distance from our meeting place: 53 miles. County gravel roads and BLM road can be quite rough. Once there, you'll find good parking area with turn around.

Camping: Yes. 6 corrals, High Lines, picnic tables & fire pits, courtesy of Ponderosa BCH. No Reservations. **PLEASE PACK OUT MANURE.**

Water: Yes, stock water is available in parking area. .

Trail Description: Lots of lovely trails, most are fairly easy riding. Water Falls, lovely views of rock structures. Cows may be grazing. Be sure to close any gates that you open.

Traffic: generally light

Footing: early season we ride barefoot, but as things dry out, hoof protection is suggested.

Notes of interest: not much trail signage

Cautions: Best to ride before it gets hot since area will have rattlesnakes. Cross creeks in areas with good visible rock footing.



Escure Ranch - in the fall

Property Name: *Crab Creek-Rocky Ford*

Property type: BLM

Pass: no

Location: Tokio, WA ([link to Trailhead parking](#))

Distance from our meeting place: 50 miles. All Paved. Good parking area with turn around.

Camping: Yes. 2 corrals, easy access. No Reservations. Please pack out manure.

Water: Yes, stock water is available in parking lot and creek offers water on the trail.

Trail Description: Lots of lovely trails, most are fairly easy riding. Creek crossing is needed on most trails. Lovely views of rock structures. Cows are often grazing here. Be sure to close any gates that you open.

Traffic: generally light

Footing: early season we ride barefoot, but as things dry out, hoof protection is suggested.

Notes of interest: No trail signage

Cautions: Best to ride before it gets hot since area will have rattlesnakes. Cross creeks in areas with good visible rock footing.



Crab Creek BLM 4/23/22



Property Name: *Fishtrap*

Property type: BLM

Pass: no

Location: Sprague, WA ([link to Trailhead parking](#))

Distance from our meeting place: 24 miles.

Paved until parking area. Good parking area with turn around.

Camping: No official camping here, although campers are often seen dispersed throughout the park. Be sure to clean up manure from wherever you park.

Water: no, although there is lake access off the Hog Lake trail (north end of park). Algae can be bad in summer.

Trail Description: Lots of lovely trails, most are fairly easy riding. Cows are often grazing here. Be sure to close any gates that you open.

Traffic: light to moderate. Hiker groups are often there on weekends.

Footing: early season we ride barefoot, but as things dry out, hoof protection is suggested.

Notes of interest: There are several access points to this area, and some have rough roads in. Email if you'd like details on avoiding these. Loop trails South of Fishtrap Road are well signed, thx to efforts of WTA and Ponderosa BCH.

Cautions: Best to ride before it gets hot since area will have rattlesnakes.



At Hog Canyon the grass was green but the wind was cold.

Stewie said, “Burrrr!”

Photo and comments by Patty Wright and Stewie Wright.



Spring Cleaning, Horse Style.

Shedding out and trimming hooves.

From Patty Wright.



These Boots Are Made For Riding!

A big thanks to Lydia Friel Templeton for her wonderful presentation on barefoot trimming and hoof boots, and much appreciation to Daralyn Denison for the use of her nice indoor facility. Also thanks to the Staton's for bringing their horses for the presentation and trial boot fitting. This was a super informative and fun evening!



Note from the editor: A special thanks to PBCH member Vern Hopkins as he continues to share a few of his western stories and tall tales with us.

A Tall Tail

By Vern Hopkins

The batwing doors of the Raw Dog Saloon blasted open and a terrified man came crashing in all gasping for breath'.

"Run for your lives," he yelled. "Big Jake's comin' !!!".

All the fellers playing poker jumped up with chips, money and cards a'flyin'. The rowdies at the bar dropped their drinks. They all dove through the windows and crowded through the doors yellin' "Run, run, Big Jake's a'comin'".

Outside a horrible roar commenced with whirlwinds a hundred miles an hour. The roofs were blowing off the buildings and the walls were cavin' in. All of a sudden a huge seven-foot-tall ugly, sourdough miner came galloping into town. His clothes were filthy, his eyes were wild and bloodshot. His snarly, raggedy beard was flowin' to his belt. He was ridin' a polar bear with log chains for reins and a live rattlesnake for a whip'. He skidded to a halt in front of the saloon, jumped off the bear, knocked the doors off the hinges and stomped over to the bar.

"Whisky," he yelled. The bartender handed him a bottle and cowered back down behind the bar. The wild man bit the neck off the bottle and drank the whole thing in one swallow.

The bartender with teeth a'chatterin' said, "You wanna' another bottle"?

"I ain't got time," the miner hollered as he ran out the door and jumped on the bear. "Big Jake's a'comin' !!!".



In Memory of Copper

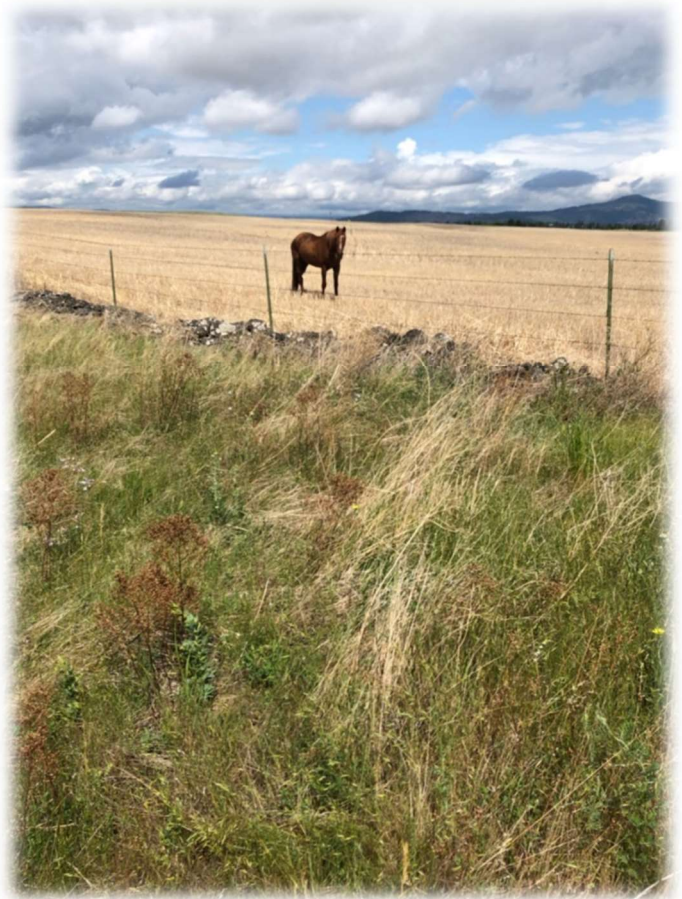
It is with sadness and sympathy that we share that Barb Maleng's horse Copper has gone to greener pastures. Barb owned Copper from the time he was 6 months old, to his death at the ripe old age of 26. He had a good long life filled with love.

As you read Barb's notes and view the pictures below, I know you will also think of your own favorite horses lost over time. I suggest you grab the box of Kleenexes now.

Our thoughts are with you Barb and Randy!

In Barb's words:

- Best fox trotter gelding mountain horse ever!!
- Went everywhere did everything perfectly!
- Brave and kind!
- He always was in the lead on the scary spots.
- Always brought us home safely and never got lost!!
- My best friend for 27 years
- Non riders, kids and the elderly all learned to ride on him.
- Fast and smooth as silk!
- We all loved him because he taught us all to ride like the wind!!



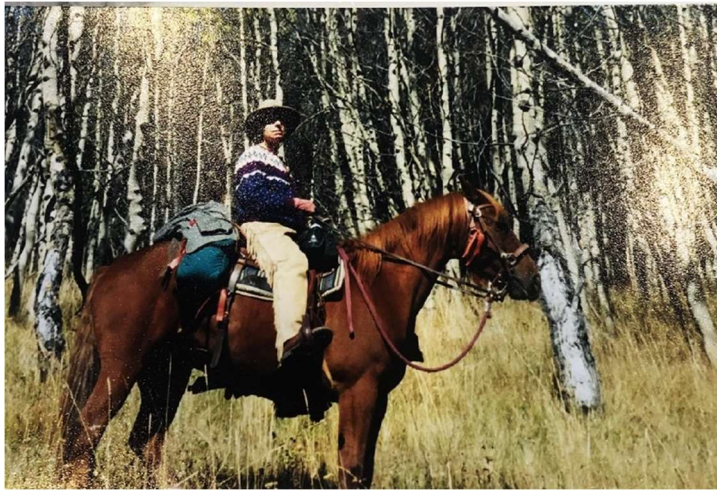


My 7 year old granddaughter riding Copper on the wagon train ride to Rendezvous! She is now married adult and a mother of two! Thats how long Copper was in my life-- before i met my husband of 25 years now. Almost half of my adult life! He was awesome!



North Lake

Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness.



High Hunt in Pasayten Wilderness



Leading green horses across the suspension bridge at Mazama over the Methow River.

A great horse will change your life. The exceptional ones define it.

Author Unknown

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.

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.



Photo by Cindy Miller @ Fishtrap

Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor

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The Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Doug Bailey, Trail Boss; Michelle Eames, Newsletter; and Melissa Halpin, Spokane County Lands Coordinator.

[Keep reading for flyers on events below!!!!]



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where

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area
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Discover Pass or Camping Permit is Required

when

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Raffle

11 am and 1 PM

Riders Out

9 am to 11:00 am

Ride length is approximately 2-1/2 Hours

FAMILY EVENT! Kids 17 & under FREE!

cost

Pre-Register by MAY 3

\$25 per rider 18+

Register at Event:

\$30 per rider 18+

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Equestrian camping – 20 sites

Reservations at:

www.parks.state.wa.us/223/reservations

OR phone 888-226-7688

and select

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

Safety rules

- One rider per horse
- Ride at a safe distance
- No stallions please
- No dogs please
- No running horses
- No littering please
- No alcohol on trails
- Be courteous
- Minors must be with an adult
- All riders must sign a liability release

special notes

PURCHASE EXTRA POKER HANDS

\$5 each-additional chances to win!

CASH PRIZES for High, 2nd Best & Lo-ball

Kids cannot win at poker

RAFFLE TICKETS

On site near the raffle items

18+ years old only

Riverside State Park Trail Maps and Poker Ride T-Shirts available for purchase!

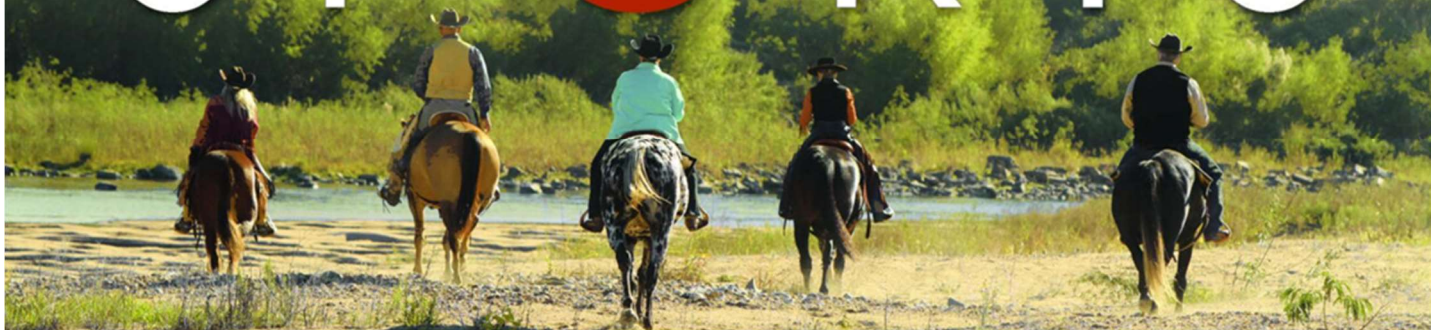
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