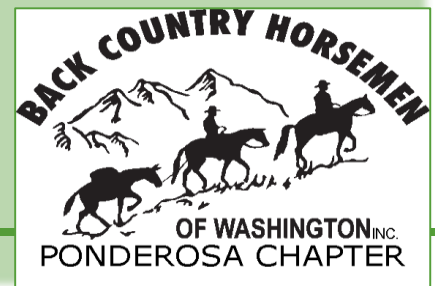


PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of Washington



"Keeping Washington Trails Open"

May 2016

CALENDAR

June 7

Membership Meeting
INB Bank, Airway Heights
6:30 pm

July 5

Membership Meeting
Ken & Patti's House
10804 W Seven Mile Rd
Potluck & Program
6:30 pm



From The President's Saddle

By Dean Giles



Not Just A Hobby

It seems like I spend an awful lot of time caring for my horses. There are the daily chores such as feeding and watering, and picking up manure. Other tasks occur less frequently, like getting them a new salt block. Hoof trims and shoes happen every once in a while; worming, shots, buying and stacking hay bales, vehicle maintenance, fence repair; the list can go on and on.

It feels overwhelming sometimes. The whole horse ownership thing doesn't work well as a hobby; it is too much work! Instead, it is a lifestyle.

I saw a bumper sticker once that said "I used to have money- now I have horses". Some truth there. Point is, you have to love being around the critters otherwise it *is* too much effort.

Please note that when I say “horse” I mean the hooved animal of your choice. I have a neighbor that has some kind of zebra cross. Haven’t seen them ridden, but I bet it would be interesting (at least for the first few bucks). Other neighbors have llamas or alpacas, which can make excellent pack animals.

It is hard for me to understand how somebody could not love horses. I get it that people are interested in different things; some like yachts and Ferraris’, others disappear into video games, still others like following sports. Personally, I would have no use for a yacht, and a Ferrari would not pull a horse trailer very well. All appearance, no substance.

Ok, to get to the point: caring for and riding stock is uniquely rewarding. Somehow it fills a basic need that owning stuff does not fulfill. There are plenty of things out there to buy, but simply buying stuff to own it is kind of empty. By contrast, I don’t think of my horses as property- they are partners, fellow comrades on each trail we explore. This is a feeling that I cherish.

This is also a heritage that is worth preserving. America was founded on horseback. There is nothing more iconic and uniquely American than the image of the mountain man--self-reliant, able to live off the land and prosper. Our gear may be more modern, but we ride many of the same trails.

Speaking of trails, if we want to be able to keep riding them, we need to be good stewards (leave no trace) and advocate for continued access to the public lands. It feels good to be part of an organization that is dedicated to this effort. Thank you all for pitching in, and keep up the good work! Happy Trails

SPRING RIDES



JUNIPER DUNES



WHITE BLUFFS



**HORN RAPIDS HORSE
CAMP**



PBCH Fundraising Events

By Ken Carmichael

We are in the middle of the chapter's two major fundraising events.

We just completed the **Horse and Equipment Sale** on May 8. This was the first try at this type of event at Riverside State Park. While we did not have as many sellers as we had hoped for it was a success and added to the bank account. We had good weather and it ran smoothly. We already have three new members from the event and expect more. Besides the cash flow the exposure to the equestrian community is important.

Our next event will be the **Fall Fun Ride and Scavenger Hunt** in Riverside State Park **Saturday, September 24**. Again, this will be a new type of event and we are feeling our way. The event will include a chili feed, crazy hat contest, door prizes, raffle, music and we are looking at entertainment.

Already promotional material is going out and we will continue to advertise. We are able to target riders that have attended other events. We are using social media, large databases of groups and individuals, the Exchange, Horse Previews, newspapers, Visit Spokane, Trailhead News, Horse Source, direct mail, fliers and we are working with sponsors.

On May 17 those of us available met to critique the Horse Sale and plan for the Scavenger Hunt. As always there is plenty to do. Of course right now the push is on the advertising and contacting sponsors for support and door prizes. As we get closer on Friday, September 23 we will put out the scavenger items (that will be fun) and we will need everyone on board for the event on Saturday.

I have had people tell me they are coming. This could be a signature event so let's put everything into it. It is never too early to volunteer.

**WANTED
PUBLICITY PERSON!**

PBCH Needs You!

Work with retailers, advertisers, potential sponsors, media, and PBCH committee members to assist with marketing, advertising and assisting in promoting the BCH Mission and Ponderosa Chapter. Please contact Dean Giles or Ken Carmichael if you'd like to participate In this important service to your Chapter

PONEROSA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean Giles, President
Patti Sander, Secretary
Celeste Eversole, Treasurer
Ken Carmichael, Director



I invite you all 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.

Patti Sander, Editor

P.S. Please send me photos of you and your equine buddy so I can highlight you in our newsletter!

BLM Eyes and Ears

By Ken Carmichael

In a meeting with BLM this spring we agreed that a worthwhile program was to have BCH members watch for and report on conditions and happenings on the BLM land. The BLM staff is just not large enough to thoroughly cover all the land and we can provide input to them.

Craig Volosing worked with BLM and they have provided us a form we can use to make reports. Jose' Bruce indicated that when riding and doing this work it is counted as volunteer hours.

This is a win win deal. Good points with BLM, volunteer hours and we have input on the land. I have turned in reports, one indicating a locked gate blocking a marked trail. This can help everyone.

Robert Eversole has put the BLM form on our website. It is in Word so you can copy to your computer and complete the questions.

This is just part of a great partnership with BLM.

Road Closure to Mt. Spokane

By Ken Carmichael

Starting at the end of June or by mid-July they will begin road maintenance just inside the entrance to Mt. Spokane State Park. The project is expected to take four months.

The road will be closed to everyone but authorized vehicles. Some park activities will continue, such as some previously planned events. Volunteer projects will also continue. However, these activities must be scheduled around opening of the road at two hour intervals. A note as to the reason the vehicle is in the park must be placed on the dashboard. It is still uncertain what the weekend schedule will be.

Parking will be available in the field across from the Bear Creek Lodge. Horses will not be allowed to cross the highway at the lodge to enter the park. Instead we can use trail 120 behind the field. From there we can go up trail 120 to the snowmobile parking lot or cross the highway at the Trail 110 parking lot.

Free Rein Therapeutic Riding

By Ken Carmichael

For several years I have been volunteering at Free Rein. Robert and Celeste Eversole also volunteer. It is just a great experience and we have lots of fun.

Volunteers assist children/adults with disabilities participating in therapeutic horseback riding lessons. There is also a military horsemanship program. Robert and Celeste qualify as instructors. I am a horse leader and side walker. This simply means that I get the horse from the pasture, saddle and prepare them for class. Then I lead the horse while the student rides. Most students also require one or two side walkers to assist.

You can sign up for specific sessions, Tuesday through Saturday, or be a floater filling in where needed. It takes about 140 volunteers each week. There are about 9 horses and we have up to 4 in a class. A volunteer can be as young as 14. Several are doing it for school credit.

I am leading up to the fact that Free Rein always needs additional volunteers. We are going into a break in June and they will be having training sessions for new volunteers on June 15, 9:00 am to 12 pm and June 20, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

This is a great program helping some very nice and worthy people and as a kicker you are working a nice group of volunteers and with horses. How good can it get?

When you contact them let them know that you are BCH and that is how you learned about the program.

Location: 8118 S Ramona Rd Spokane, off the Spokane/Cheney Road

Telephone: 509-979-1468

Email: volunteerfreerein@gmail.com

Website: www.freereinspokane.org

THE FULL EIGHT SECONDS

By Gary Miller

The annual spring “poker ride” attracts a lot of riders as one of the first big events of the year, many on horses like mine that are full of a winter’s worth of pent up energy.

A few miles into the ride, my wife started to speed up to catch the group in front of us, and my horse immediately sensed the race was supposed to start. When I throttled him back, I felt “the move” coming on, consisting of a quick little jump to the right, a toss of the head with a rear that knocked my hat off, and then came the full buck! I’m not sure how many he got in before pulling full left rein & spur to start a spin, followed by a change of direction back to the right, then backing in tight circles to get his attention.

Once back in control and feeling the calm returning, I dismounted to retrieve my hat. The group following us cautiously approached and asked if everything was okay; I said yes, and told them to go on by. One of the riders calmly said as he passed “well, you made the full eight seconds.” And Cindy got the picture of us “making up.”



Unless you’re lucky enough to have a “bullet proof” horse, spring can be a little bit of a challenge getting a horse (and rider) back into “trail shape” after a long winter with little work, particularly if the horse has some “spirit.” The moral to this story is that proper ground work and riding sessions, if you can fit them into your schedule prior to the first big ride of the year, can go a long way toward minimizing tests of your rough stock skills. So, don’t be like me, get out there and work with your horse, and you’ll both be better for it. Nobody gave me a score for my ride....

WHAT'S HAPPENING



By Ken Carmichael

The Calendar of events shows many of the events that are coming up but I just wanted to highlight some of the projects we are working on.

June 19 is the REI Trails Day in Riverside State Park – we will be participating

June 30-July 4 - Statewide work party at Twisp River Horse Camp

August 27 – 28 - Carson James Clinic

September 24 – FALL FUN RIDE AND SCAVENGER HUNT

October 29 – BCHW Wine Ride

Unscheduled projects:

- Trail clearing at Riverside State Park in preparation for Scavenger Hunt
- Construction of manure bunker at Riverside State Park
- Mapping and clearing of fire roads at Riverside State Park
- Participation in the planning for the Mountain Education and Recreation Center in Mt. Spokane

NOTE: this will include equestrian camping

- Hitch rales, and possibly water trough, at Mt. Spokane CCC Heritage Area
- Further design work on Telford trail system in preparation for trail construction

NOTE: We are riding this area becoming familiar with the terrain

- Further design work on corrals at Lakeview Ranch
- Rides as people want to plan them

NOTE Thus far we have had some great rides at the Escure Ranch, Riverside State Park and Telford that I am aware of. Also Patti and I went to the BCHW poker ride near Thorpe WA

There are many opportunities to be involved. We like to ask people to join in but sometimes we miss someone. Please just step forward and join in.