



PONDEROSA



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

Website: PBCHW.COM

April 2023



At Rendezvous 2023, BCHW presented Ken Carmichael with the very prestigious President's Diamond Award for work at the state level. Congratulations Ken!!!

PBCH CALENDAR

All events subject to change; Watch facebook and emails.

April 4- PBCH Member Meeting; pasture management and noxious weed presentation—Spokane County

April 25- PBCH Board Meeting

April 30- CMO Ride RSP Equ. Area

***May 2-** PBCH Member Meeting [exploring change to May 6; more to come]

May 5-7- Methow Valley Annual Spring Ride

May 13 - Horse First Aid class and trail ride at Swannack's Farm

May 21- PBCH Poker Ride @ Riverside Equ Area

May 30- PBCH Board Meeting

President's Report April 2023

Welcome to new members Cal and Jeff Wilcox! They have recently moved to the area from the wet side of the state.

For the April meeting we will have a guest from Spokane County to present a program on noxious weeds, This should be great information for all of us. The meeting will be held at Hayford Community Church: 5306 South Hayford Road, with a 5:30 social time and meeting starts at 6:00 pm. We will also be voting on approval of the chapter by-laws; Ken has sent out a copy via email.

Please pay attention to your emails, newsletters, and members Facebook page to see upcoming events such as rides, meetings, work parties and other things of interest.

If you are not on the members only Facebook page, contact Carol Klar.

I will be stepping down as president at the end of this term, it would be nice for someone to step up to take this position, please let me know if you are interested so that I can talk to you about it.

Thanks, Tom

PBCH Newsletter First Buttercup Contest:

There were two entries in the “first buttercup contest” and they came in on the same day, Wednesday March 22, only 28 minutes apart. It is notable that the locations were half a mile apart from each other, in similar habitats. Both were lovely examples of sunny yellow flowers to remind us that spring is coming. What do the entrants win? Our gratitude for brightening the newsletter and sharing hope for spring.

Chris Frederick (the editor’s son) sent his photo in first.

Tom Birge (PBCH President) sent his in 28 minutes later.



BCHW Director's Report

By Ken Carmichael

The March 17, 2023, BCHW Directors Board Meeting was held in conjunction with the Rendezvous in Ellensburg.

Most of the information was provided in written committee reports to accommodate the limited time available. This is a brief overview of topics covered. Contact me for further information.

Youth Program – The BCHW Executive Committee approved a new Youth Program. This is a guideline for chapters in developing and managing a youth program in conjunction with the chapter. If anyone in the chapter is interested in creating a program please see me.

Pacific NW Scenic Trail (Boundary #533) – This is a BIG deal. Improvements will be made to this trail along the Canadian border from western Montana to the Pacific Ocean. In addition, feeder trails and trailheads will be created. As noted below BCHW is receiving a \$100,000 grant to head this project up in Washington. Tim Van Beek will coordinate with a host of other organizations. BCHW will provide major labor including pack stock to take other crews to work sites. Additional training will also be provided. This is a great opportunity to be included in statewide work parties.

Back Country Horsemen of America – BCHA made a visit to Washington D.C. for “Hike the Hill”. BCHW’s Darrell Wallace, along with BCHA Vice Chair Mark Himmel and BCHA Advisor for Public Lands, Randy Rasmussen met with legislators and with the Forest Service to put forth the issues that are important to and affect our members. BCHA is working on a new strategic business plan. Texas will officially join BCHA in April. BCHA is continuing to develop “Light on the Land” as a proprietary equestrian leave-no-trace program.

Grants – BCHW is very active in obtaining grants to support our mission. The 2020 grants totaled \$257,903. The 2022 grant request is \$416,064. In addition, BCHW will spearhead the project of improving the Pacific NW Scenic Trail (Boundary #533) and feeder trails in 2023 and 2024. The grant for this project alone is \$100,000. This is just an indication of the work being accomplished by BCHW.

Membership – As of March 2 there were 1178 memberships for a total of 1803 members. Since that date it has grown.

BCHW Calendars – Believe it or not I will be picking up 2024 calendars at the June meeting. We must decide how many the chapter wants to purchase. Because of the increased cost of production, the price in 2024 will be \$12.

Sawyer Program – This is getting some changes. More help with the management, minor changes to the PPE and using electronic registration for the certification classes. Sawyers will receive more information.

Store- Lori Lennox has managed the store for 12 years and is looking to hand it off to new hands. See me if you are interested.

Winery Ride – Plan to help, or ride, at the Winery Ride October 28, 2023

Volunteer Hours – We can be proud of the job **Carol Klar** does reporting our chapter volunteer hours. Please support Carol by accurately reporting all the hard work you do in support of BCH.

Legislative – The hard work is over for the current legislative session but we watch these issues throughout the year. BCHW has a new contract with a lobbyist Joyce Willms to help with this.

Alcohol policy – Reminder that BCH funds CANNOT be used to purchase alcohol for any reason.

This is a very brief summary of what happens at BCHW. Please watch the Trailhead News and other communications for up-to-date happenings. I thoroughly enjoy working with this group as a director and chairman of the Membership Development Committee and the Governance and Bylaws Committee. I have the opportunity to interact at many levels and different chapters.

There are many opportunities for people to join the BCHW leadership. Some opportunities include:

- Leave No Trace Chair – Jane Byram is stepping down after many years. This is a great program
- Publicity Chair –
- Treasurer – Teri Starke is always looking for additional help
- Store – Lori Lennox would like to pass this on to a new person after 12 years
- Volunteer Hours – Deb Wesselius always needs help at the “regional level” to verify information
- Historian –
- Volunteer awards – Someone to manage the distribution of volunteer patches to the chapters
-

All the committees are identified in the front cover of the Trailhead News. Some of these committees would welcome additional help. In addition, there are the events (winery Ride, Rendezvous, Regional work parties, etc.) that always need help. As I mentioned, we have lots of fun working together and welcome new people to join us.

Poker Ride

By Ken Carmichael

DATE – SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023.

LOCATION – RIVERSIDE STATE PARK EQUESTRIAN AREA

We continue to receive preregistrations and gather raffle items. A friend of Tom's has built new game boxes and we will use bean bags rather than poker chips. This should make the games easier.

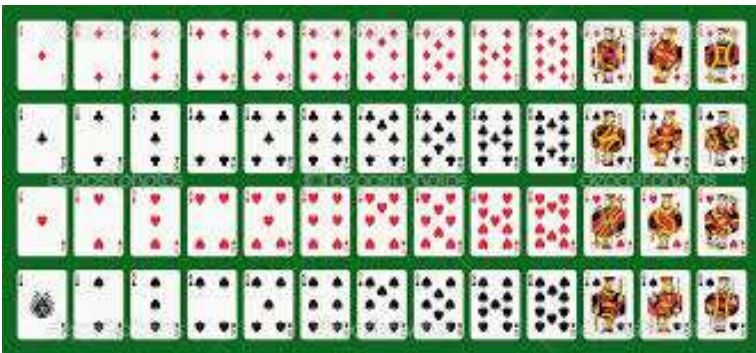
The key steps now include:

- **PROMOTION** – Tell everyone you know, or do not know, through Facebook and every other resource you have about the ride. We want a high turnout so get the word out there.
- **VOLUNTEER** – This takes everyone. It is a full day. Success depends on our members providing a welcoming and well-organized event. This takes people on site. We welcome non-members as volunteers so “volunteer” your sister, husband, kids, good friends that owe you a favor, etc. Please contact me and volunteer so that we know we have the people to put on a first-class event.

This is the Ponderosa BCH's only fundraiser each year. It helps provide the funds so that we can do the trail work and education throughout the year.

We are attaching the event flyer at the end of the newsletter. The preregistration form and other information is available on our website WWW.PBCHW.COM.

clipart-library.com



2023 PONDEROSA BCH Planning Calendar (as of 3/30-23)

All dates subject to change; watch emails and Facebook.

Work Parties and Member Rides will be planned and scheduled as the year proceeds.

<p>March</p> <p>March 28- PBCH Board Meeting</p>	<p>April</p> <p>April 4- PBCH Member Meeting; pasture management and noxious weeds; Spokane County.</p> <p>April 25-PBCH Board Meeting</p> <p>April 30, CMO ride, RSP Equestrian Area</p>
<p>May</p> <p><i>*May 2- PBCH Member Meeting; overnight survival on the trail [*potential change to May 6; more to come on this! Watch Facebook and email.]</i></p> <p>May 5-7- Methow Valley Annual Spring Ride</p> <p>May 13 - Horse First Aid class and trail ride at Swannack's Farm</p> <p>May 21- PBCH Poker Ride @ Riverside Equ Area</p> <p>May 30- PBCH Board Meeting</p>	<p>June</p> <p>June 6 – PBCH Member Meeting Maps & Apps – finding your way on the trail</p> <p>June 10- Path to Partnership Communication and Confidence Clinic @ Riverside Equestrian Arena. Spokane Cops Mounted Patrol. Spokanecops.org.</p> <p>June 27- PBCH Board Meeting</p> <p>June 30 – July 5th. Haney Meadows Work and Ride; Ken Wilcox horse camp.</p>
<p>July</p> <p>July 11 (rescheduled from July 4) PBCH Member Meeting Ice Cream Social @ RSP, horse play day</p> <p>July 14-16 Vicki Gish Memorial Ride sponsored by NE BCH</p> <p>July 25- PBCH Board Meeting</p>	<p>August</p> <p>August 1 –PBCH Member Meeting Lake Party</p> <p>August 29- PBCH Board Meeting</p>
<p>September</p> <p>September 8- PBCH Member Meeting</p> <p>September 26- PBCH Board Meeting</p>	<p>October</p> <p>October 3- PBCH Member Meeting, elections</p> <p>October 28- BCHW Wine Ride@ Zillah</p> <p>October 31- PBCH Board Meeting?</p>
<p>November</p> <p>November 7- PBCH Member Meeting Annual Soup Social potluck</p> <p>November 28- PBCH Board Meeting</p>	<p>December</p> <p>December 5 – PBCH Member Meeting Christmas Party</p>
<p>Other events can be found here: https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php</p>	

4-H Tack Sale BY Ken Carmichael

Several of us had a full day and fun time at the 4-H Tack Sale talking to buyers and promoting the Ponderosa BCH Poker Ride.

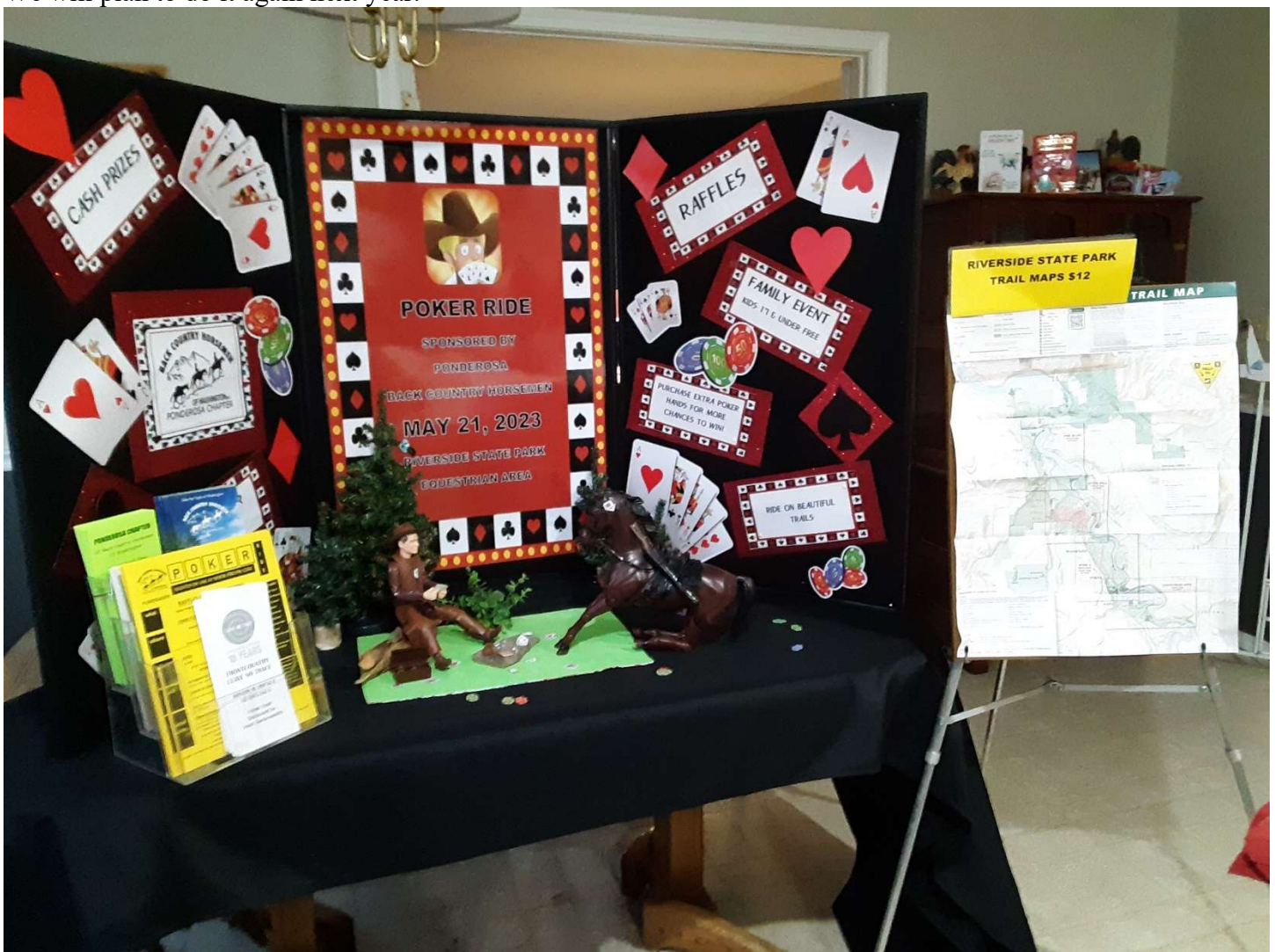
This was a great opportunity to hand out fliers about the poker ride and introduce some people to BCH.

Patti Carmichael made a beautiful booth for the display highlighting the poker ride.

The following people are the ones that had the fun:

Vern Hopkins
Melissa Halpin
Dee Dee Dennison
Doug Bailey
Patti Carmichael
Ken Carmichael

We will plan to do it again next year.



BCHW Rendezvous Follow-up

By Ken and Patti Carmichael

We spent a great weekend at the BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg. The weather was fantastic as people strolled around the fairgrounds, visited and sat on benches between the many activities. This is the major BCHW fundraiser.

We had to select between which seminars and clinics we wanted to attend. The primary ones that we attended included:

- Defensive Horsemanship, staying safe on the trail – a good follow up to the PBCH February meeting.
- Recognizing the Healthy Hoof
- Equine 1st Aid – excellent and would like to get this in Spokane
- 1st Aid when Disaster Hits
- BCHW Committee Chair Open Forum – We represented the committees where we serve at the BCHW level

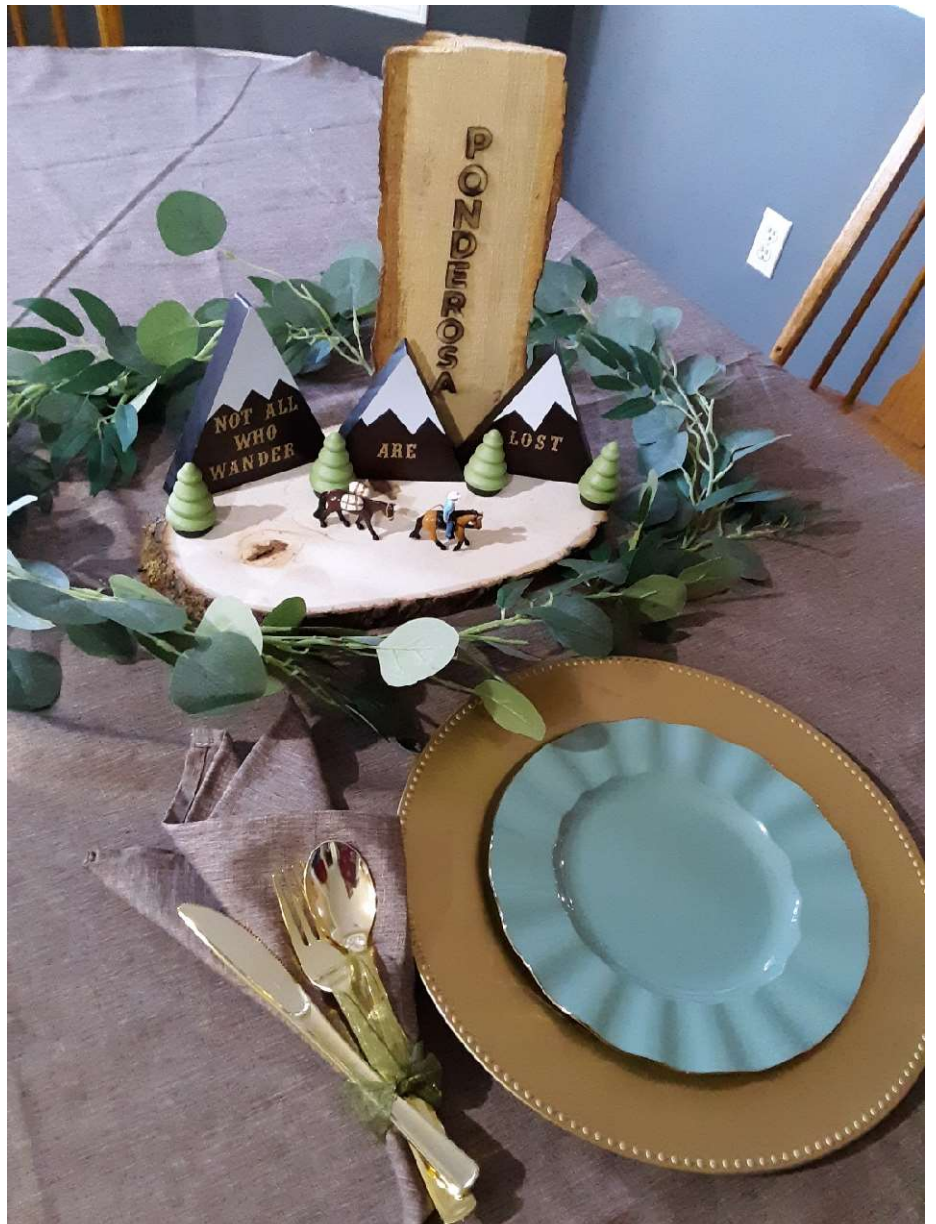
We will not try to list all the sessions that we could not get to, but are sorry we did not have time. Between sessions we visited vendors, contests, BCHW store, chapter booths, silent auction and tack sale.

This was the largest tack sale ever and they had to move it to a separate large building. We sold one of Barbie Scheibner's saddles and that money will be donated to Ponderosa BCH.

I attended the BCHW board meeting; I will cover that in a separate article.

We did not fill the PBCH tables at the Saturday night banquet so were able to invite people from other areas where we enjoyed conversation with them and made new friends. The table decorations are judged. **Patti's decorations won third place out of 49 tables.**

**[Editors note:
Congratulations Patti!!!]**



At the general membership meeting on Sunday several people were recognized for their hard work in BCH. **Ken was presented with the President Diamond Award for work at the state level.**



The bucket raffle, silent auction and live auction always bring in many great articles. This year the PBCH made several donations:

- Books – several books including **Michelle Eames'** book "Riding Lessons, Things I learned while Horsing Around" were in the silent auction and were bid up to at least \$30.
- Quilt – The beautiful quilt made by **Linda White** was in the silent auction and was around \$100.
- Cut glass picture – This beautiful, framed picture by **Linda and Larry Grinstead** went into the live auction and sold for \$525. That was exciting.

We had a good time seeing old friends and making new ones. People are already making plans for Rendezvous 2024.

by Carol Klar

Rendezvous

Back Country Horsemen's Statewide Celebration

For anyone who didn't make it, you missed a lot! I've attended this for several years, and I think the 2023 Rendezvous offered the best assortment of speakers and programs, and all for FREE! One that was of special interest to me was the saddle fitting presentation provided by Dave Morrison.

The high points of fitting that Dave covered include:

- Tree widths
- Rock, what it is and the effects of too much and too little
- Bridging
- Saddle placement on the horse's back ([a helpful video I found on youtube](#))
 - Sitting saddle too far forward causing shoulder restriction and horse tripping
- Use rear cinch and it should be reasonably snug
- Crupper – he did not recommend this, but encouraged a britching instead
- Well-fitted (snug) breast collar to keep the saddle placed properly
- NO rear lacings between side skirts, since they can create stress in Lumbar area
- Use a Mohair cinch



Dave provided many invaluable pointers, and demonstrated the [Dennis Lane fitting system](#). This is really cool, and the video link will explain how it works.

What was particularly inspiring was Dave's keen awareness of the equine's comfort. Some stories he shared were indeed sad, but made explicit points about how seriously an ill-fitting saddle can affect your equine. He also made mention of how the rider's weight and position affect the equine's back, advocating a rider having weight distribution among 3 parts: seat bones, thighs and stirrups, combating chair seat, which puts a lot of stress on the back of the saddle, hence the lumbar region of the horse. He also explained how the cantle shape and tilt will differ for men vs women. Dave's presentation was specifically about western saddles and

western riders, however, the principles are universal. [This article](#) goes into position and anatomy in depth. I just include it for anyone who might want more details on the topic.

Dave also offered comments on flex trees and treeless saddles, which weren't really favorable. Tree fatigue was an issue for flex trees and for either tree type, rider weight was again mentioned as a confounding factor. He also explained the perils of using a saddle with hinged panels; yup, many reasons to avoid these.

I won't attempt to cover Dave's entire presentation here, but by checking out the Dennis Lane fitting video, you'll get some good ideas about those things that are critical to saddle fit. Also, if you'd like to check in with Dave about a custom saddle or with his recommended cinch company, here are links. Dave is located in Walla Walla.

<https://www.facebook.com/DMorrisonSaddles/>

<http://borkandsons.com/cincha-styles.html>

Disclaimer: general saddle fitting principles are pretty universal, however, each saddle maker may have his/her own opinions and preferences.

Volunteer Hours

By Ken Carmichael

At the Ponderosa BCH March membership meeting members were recognized for the many hours of volunteer work performed from October 2021 Through September 2022. 38 members and 11 non-members performed 2194.5 hours of volunteer work valued at \$76,459,.03.

The many hours of volunteer work reflect the dedication of members, and non-members, to the mission of keeping trails open for equestrians. Hours are accumulated through work in Education, Advocacy, Trail and Trailhead Work, Fundraising and Administration of the chapter and BCHW.

Some of our BCH responsibilities are opportunities to record hours such as President, Treasurer, Director, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, fundraising, etc. For some of our projects the volunteer leader records the hours. These include the poker ride, some meetings and group work parties. However, there are many opportunities for us to work on our own where the hours can be recorded. Some examples include writing newsletter articles, doing research for projects, meeting with land managers, participating on committees, participating in educational events and representing BCH at other events

Carol Klar is responsible for recording the hours worked by the Ponderosa chapter. Quarterly she forwards this information to BCHW who annually sends the information on to the Back Country Horsemen of America. In addition to the hours being recorded they are converted into dollar value. For the last year BCHW hours totaled 61,236.5 for a value of \$2,459,121.83. National figures are a year older. But when they added all the states together it totaled 207,805 hours for \$9,389,714.00.

As we talk to land managers, legislators, congress and others who have influence over equestrian access to our public lands these figures are shown. They reflect our commitment to working with our land managers, value we add to our public lands and our commitment to keeping trails open. Note in the Directors Report the comments about “Hike the Hill” in Washington D.C.

It is important that as individuals we carefully provide Carol Klar with the hours we spend volunteering. This is just one way that we can help keep trails open. Use whatever system works for you to keep track of your hours then on a timely basis, not just when she asks, send Carol a message and she will help you record the hours. She is very good at this.

Louise Walton has been providing trail reports for the Northeast BCH and is kindly sharing recent reports with Ponderosa BCH.

Missile Site Report

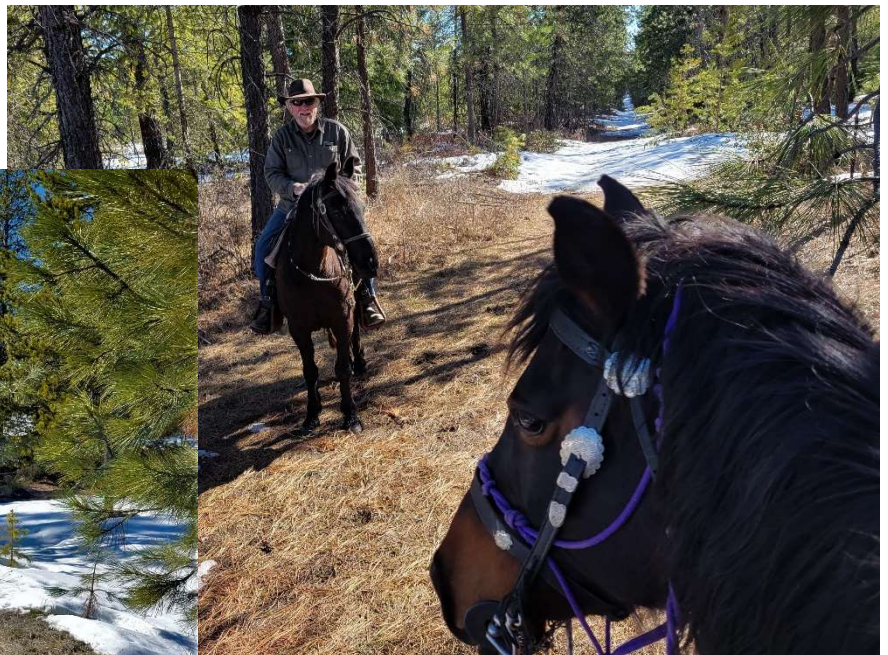
By Louise Walton

NEBCHW Trail Condition Report for March 22, 2023; Missile Site. Who could resist the beautiful bright blue skies and 50-degree weather? Silly question! Randy joined me for his first ride of the season on Denny and I saddled up Truth for her second ride but first time off the property. Loading was a snap; the parking lot was empty of trailers and the snow was rapidly receding. We were able to check conditions on all of the perimeter trail. The snow was granular and came up to the horses' fetlocks. As you see in the photos, some areas were bare. There is ice under the snow in some spots. Moose had been on the trail leaving big tracks and many poop piles. We also noticed from the prints that several riders had enjoyed the trails since my last visit with Columbo.



There was not another sole in sight for the entire ride. The trees had dropped lots of small dead limbs on the trail most likely due to the amount of snow over the winter. No trees fell onto the trail. Some branches were lowered but nothing that we couldn't avoid. It sure was fantastic to be ridding again!

The Missile Site is part of the Deer Park Airport property. I contacted Darold Schultz who manages this part of the property to offer NEBCHW help keeping the trails clear for all the folks who enjoy this park. He told me that DNR will be using the area for training crews. They have a forester and will be doing some precommercial thinning. This is expected to happen in mid-April. We will keep in touch and I offered our help whenever he might have a need.



Rustler's Gulch Report

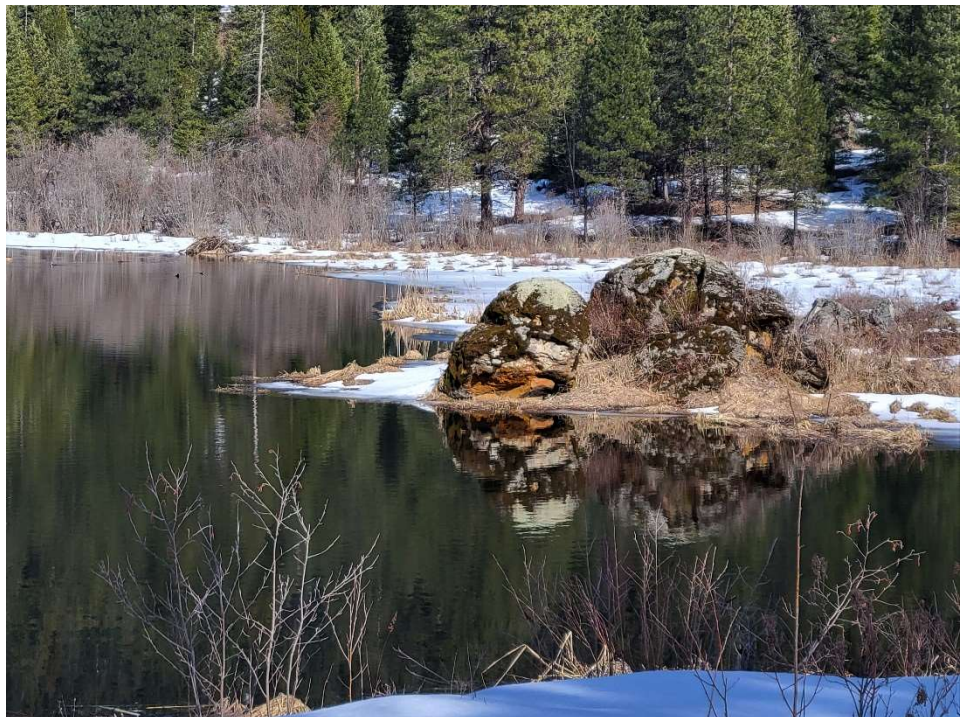
By Louise Walton

NEBCHW Trail Condition Report for March 16, 2023, for Rustlers Gulch. Constant companion, Columbo, and I were inspired by the fabulous sunshine to walk the trail from the Beaver Creek Trailhead all the way to the Little Spokane River crossing. Access for parking was still open part way back from Horse Shoe Lake Road. We were a little surprised to find plenty of snow on the ground. I walked the beaten snow covered path while Columbo checked out the surrounding areas which, by the height on his legs, didn't appear to be more than a foot deep.



There were lots of small brushy stems hanging over the trail as before. A small section just before entering the "tunnel" was under water. I passed by on the side where there was some good snow. The same low hanging branches at the end of the tunnel haven't sprung back up so it would be best to have a small hand saw with you to pass this narrow spot in the trail. It is either that or dismount and walk your horse under. The story for today was the sheer beauty of the scenery along the river. There was one BIG moose track in the trail on the way to the river crossing. The "swimming hole" was full with a waterfall at the end where it necks down and before the crossing. There must be lots of snow/water on the surrounding hills because the level at the crossing was not as high as I expected. Columbo, sensible dog that he is, did not venture too far in but did provide perspective.

It was good exercise but disappointing due to the depth of the snow. I would not hesitate to explore on horseback but we just got shoes on which could pack snow under the horse's feet. If you are using boots or going barefoot, it would be a fine adventure. Don't despair. Think spring and applaud the warmer temperatures that are predicted. Sue and I just can't wait so we are going out today to ride our road and our north pasture as a test of footing and the effects of so many months of not riding. Whoopee! Snow is soft, if we do an unexpected gravity check.



Competitive Mounted Orienteering **by Linda White**

Competitive Mounted Orienteering (CMO) is one of the most challenging and exciting equestrian sports - for the competitive as well as family horse rider! CMO is like a mounted treasure hunt, which tests your horsemanship, your map reading ability, and your compass skills - all while having great fun with your horse!

The object of the sport is to ride out as an individual or a team on a prescribed course and find as many of the hidden Objective Stations as you can and get back in the least amount of time, on either a ten station long or 5 station short course.

The long course can be anywhere from around 5 to as long as 10 miles. The terrain depends on the ride manager's choice of area - but CMO rides are held all over the country from the high forests of Washington State to the rolling hills of Indiana!

The short course is much smaller, and is oriented towards families, riders wishing a less competitive event, training of new horses, and new riders looking to check out the CMO fun.

This is a fun way to learn how to use a map and compass which are essential skills in the backcountry. Demonstrations and teaching are available at each ride.

Come and join us!!

Selkirk CMO



A CMO rider taking a compass bearing from a clue - A LARGE ROCK ON A STUMP. CMO stresses sound horsemanship, and we like to call it "The Thinking Horse Sport"!

Spring Treasure Hunt CMO

Presented by

Selkirk Competitive Mounted Orienteering and Ustengo



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Sunday, April 30, 2023

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

Discover Pass Required

\$25 non-members, \$20 members

Registration onsite starts 8:00 a.m.

Rider Meeting 9:00 am

First Riders out 10:00 a.m.

For more info contact Linda White. Email: linda43562@hotmail.com; 509-413-7392



Remember the Swannack's **May 13 Equine First Aid Education Event**. More details will be shared later; in the meantime, here is some information from the American Association of Equine Practitioners:

DO YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN IN PLACE FOR YOUR HORSE?

If you own horses long enough, sooner or later you are likely to be confronted with a medical emergency. Are you prepared to act? Having a clear emergency action plan will help you stay focused and effective if a crisis strikes.

Below are some basic guidelines that can help you prepare for an equine emergency:

1. Know how to reach your regular veterinarian after hours. Ask about a back-up or referring veterinarian in case your regular horse doctor is not available for emergencies.
2. Have a plan for transporting the horse if necessary and know in advance the most direct route to an equine surgery center.
3. Prepare a first aid kit (see graphic for a short list of essential items) and store it in a clean, dry, readily accessible place. Keep a first aid kit in your horse trailer or towing vehicle as well, and be sure to check your supplies periodically and restock as needed. First-aid kits can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like; seek your horse doctor's advice on what to add, especially regarding any drugs that could be included and how they should be administered.

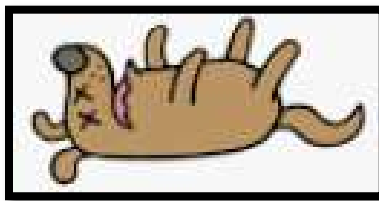




Where oh where has my little dog gone???

by: Carol Klar

It is springtime, and everyone is eager to visit our parks, ride the trails, and for many, take “man’s best friend” out for some recreation. The majority of dogs in the park are on a leash-following the park rules, but for the outliers, mayhem can at times result. It seems that at least once each year, a rider gets thrown at the behest of a loose dog. These altercations often result in injury to the rider, some being severe. They also result in loose and/or lost horses. This creates an entirely different set of concerns and potential injuries to horses, people and property. **AND some horses will kick dogs, and a well-placed kick can be fatal.**



I’d like to share a recent note from Justin Krogstat, Area Manager / State Park Ranger 4

“..Unfortunately, dogs-off-leash is probably the **single biggest complaint** we receive from visitors across all Washington State Parks—not just locally. The vast majority of our pet-owning visitors follow the rules, but many do not, and it sometimes leads to arguments out on the trails.

What I can tell you about our enforcement at Riverside and Mt Spokane is that we have a **zero-tolerance policy** for dogs-off-leash. This was started by my predecessor several years ago, and it has continued with me. Our rangers are strongly encouraged to issue citations in these instances.

Despite this heavy enforcement, and with over 20,000 acres of State Park property to patrol, we just can’t be everywhere. We’re doing our best. **In the future, if you can get a license plate or some other kind of identifying information, let a ranger know, and we’ll try to track that person down.** “

So, if you encounter a problem canine / problem owner, please contact state parks office: 509-465-5064 (voice only) and request that your report be shared with the Ranger on Duty. If you’d like to provide a picture or written info, you may email that to: riverside@parks.wa.gov . With so many more people using public lands these days, the problem is expanding, so please offer your input to help curtail it. Help us all be safer out there!

Beyond the state parks, there are other agencies that manage public lands that we use. It is a good idea to understand the governance of the areas you visit and abide by their rules.

For State Parks (SP) and County Conservation Areas (CA) – dogs must ALWAYS be on a leash. This includes Riverside SP, Mt. Spokane SP, Antoine Peak CA, James T. Slavin, Bear Lake, Dishman Hills, Saltese, Haynes, Liberty Lake, McKenzie, McLellan and others. Tickets with hefty fines may be issued to violators. Also, there are a few isolated areas where dogs are not permitted at all, normally due to the area being fragile or to offer protection for endangered wildlife. Typically, these areas are well signed.

For State Fish and Wildlife properties, (Rustler's Gulch, Ancient Lakes, etc), the rules are a bit different. Dogs must be leashed April through July so they don't disturb nesting wildlife. Outside of those months, dogs may be allowed off leash (check the park's specific rules) but should be under voice control. HOWEVER, be aware that dogs that are found to attack, harass or kill wildlife can be taken into custody and may be destroyed. This is just a brief summary of RCW 77.15.240, but if you take dogs into Fish and Wildlife properties, you [should be familiar with the laws governing it](#).

BLM area rules are far more variable. Some areas have few rules while others don't permit dogs at all. Be sure to read up on the rules before your visit. [Here is a useful reference](#).

City Parks – I can't think of a lot of City Parks large enough to have horse trails, but one does come to mind, and that would be Missile Site Park in Deer Park. Here too, the park rules say dogs must be leashed.



Sooooo, as an avid trail rider, I sure appreciate any efforts made to keep the environment safe for me, my horse, and my friends on the trail as well as the wildlife that make their homes in our beautiful parks.

Provided by Louise Walton:

DISCOVER PASS FREE DAYS FOR 2023

March 19, 2023 is the 110th birthday of Washington State Parks. This date is one of our park's [Discover Pass free days](#).

For the listed dates **no pass** is required for vehicle access to our [parks](#), along with [DNR](#) and [DFW lands](#).

In addition to March 19, 2023 the following dates are part of the Discover Pass free days program:

- April 22 — Earth Day
- June 10 — National Get Outdoors Day
- June 11 — Free Fishing Day
- June 19 — Juneteenth
- Sept. 23 — National Public Lands Day
- Oct. 10 -- World Mental Health Day
- Nov. 11 — Veterans Day
- Nov. 25 — Autumn Day

Any day is a good day to visit Washington parks, and DNR and DFW lands. We all enjoy “FREE.” You may discover your new favorite place to play.

DISCOVER PASS

YOUR TICKET TO WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS.

The War Creek Bear

By Vern Hopkins

I was scared. Like cold sweat, hear-pounding scared. I knew it was all over. A bear was going to have me for lunch.

It was late summer, and the bear population was pretty serious about getting fat before winter. We didn't see bears very often, but there was plenty of sign that they were around.

Our Forest Service trail crew was camped on War Creek. We were maybe a week into a two-week trip and about eight miles in from the trailhead. The four-man crew was doing trail maintenance, and I was doing the cooking and tending to the camp and the pack horses. We were making good use of an old trapper's cabin. It was kind of small, but had a cook stove, a table with a couple chars, and a double bunkbed.

On this particular day the crew was still up the trail somewhere and I didn't need to start getting supper for an hour or two. Taking advantage of the slack time, I was laying on the lower bunk reading a paperback western. The cabin door was open to let in a little breeze. The bugs and insects were humming and chirping. Everything was quiet and peaceful.

Suddenly, I was startled by a strange sound just outside the cabin door. I held my breath, listening. Unmistakable sounds of animal footsteps, sniffing and snuffing of hungry breath. The clicking and rattling of sharp claws on the steps and then on the cabin floor...

Frozen with fear, I imagined the worst – a huge grizzly with beady red eyes and saliva dripping from monstrous teeth-filled jaws.

Panic-stricken, but unable to hold still another second, I leaped off the bed. In one jump I was at the woodpile by the stove. Grabbing a chunk of wood, I whirled around ready to fight for my life and stared right into the beady red eyes of...

.... a porcupine.

Classified Ads

Boarding Needed

By Ken Carmichael

Shari Bolander from Post Falls is looking for a new boarding stable. This is what she had to say:

At the current place the owners want to retire from boarding. Since I live in a subdivision on the west side of Post Falls, bringing the horse home is not an option. Looking for full care, indoor area, stall with individual run/turnout and feasible driving distance (preferably within 30-mile radius). Currently I am not in a bind and have some time to check out places. My 20-year-old Tennessee Walker gelding is an easy keeper and very gentle with excellent ground manners. I've had him since he was two.

Shari Bolander

Cell: 605-484-2999

Saddle Wanted

By Ken Carmichael

We are looking for a western saddle. Preferred about 14.5 to 15 inch seat.

From the Editor:

I invite you all to continue to send me your horse- or wildlife-related 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.

Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor



Vali the Muddy, with Oly the Elder coming in at a close second place for muddiest horse.

BCH Officers 2023

PRESIDENT

TOM BIRGE

VICE PRESIDENT

CAROL KLAR

SECRETARY

PATTI CARMICHAEL

TREASURER

DIANA BIRGE

STATE DIRECTOR

KEN CARMICHAEL

ALT. STATE DIR.

DOUG BAILEY

The 2023 Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Michelle Eames, Newsletter; and Melissa Halpin, Spokane County Lands Coordinator.



P O K E R

R I D E

REGISTER ON LINE AT WWW.PBCHW.COM

FUNDRAISER

what

RAFFLES ! CASH PRIZES!

Poker Ride: Stop at each station to try for a card you need in your hand!

FAMILY EVENT! Kids 17 & under FREE!

where

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area
3402 N Equestrian Lane
Spokane WA

Discover Pass or Camping Permit is Required

when

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Raffle

1 PM

Riders Out

9 am to 11:00 am

Ride length is approximately 2-1/2 Hours

POKER GAME ENDS AT 2 PM

cost

Pre-Register by MAY 9

\$25 per rider age 18+

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

Register at Event:

\$30 per rider age 18+

Box Lunches Available for

\$ 7.00 each

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!

Credit/Debit available on site; Cash/Check preferred

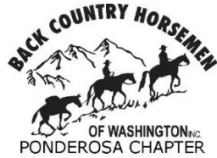
SPONSORED BY PONDEROSA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

The trail is well defined over relatively level but rocky ground and varies in difficulty. Some experience is required.

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

Click to our website at www.pbchw.com for a detailed fact sheet
OR CONTACT
Ken Carmichael
509-466-2225
Kcarmichael2225@gmail.com



P O K E R

R
I
D
E

FUNDRAISER MAY 21, 2023 *Register On-Line at www.pbchw.com*

Current COVID-19
Restrictions will be in force

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

A Liability Release form **MUST BE SIGNED AT CHECK-IN** for registration to be complete!

RIDERS

Photo Copies OK

Please Print Clearly
Rider #1:

Same Contact Information/Both Riders

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number _____

17 & Under

Rider #2:

Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Telephone Number _____

17 and under ride FREE but cannot win poker

Rider 1 # of Extra Hands _____ Lunch ___ Yes ___ No

Rider 2 # of Extra Hands _____ Lunch ___ Yes ___ No

*The trail is well defined over relatively level
but rocky ground and varies in difficulty.
Some experience is required.*

POKER GAME ENDS AT 2 PM

PAYMENT

MUST be MAILED BY May 9 To:

10804 W Seven Mile Rd
Spokane WA 99224

Total number of RIDERS 18+ :

_____ X \$25 / pp = \$ _____

Extra Poker Hands _____ X \$5 / Ea = \$ _____

Total number of RIDERS 17 & Under:

_____ X \$0 / pp = \$ -0-

Lunches _____ X \$ 7.00 /PP = \$ _____

Tax deductible donation to BCH \$ _____

TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Pre-Registration is NON-REFUNDABLE

Make check payable to

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Cash Check # _____

RAFFLE

Tickets available on site – cash preferred

CASH PRIZES

For High, 2nd Best and Loball hands, winners will be contacted after the
event (18+ only)

T-SHIRTS

Poker Ride T-Shirts for Sale

MAPS

YOU CAN REGISTER ON-LINE AT

WWW.PBCHW.COM

POKER RIDE
Sponsored by
PONDEROSA BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
FACTS SHEET – 2023

CURRENT CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN FORCE FOR YOUR SAFETY

Many of you have attended the Ponderosa Scavenger Hunt or Poker Ride so some of this may be repetitive. However, we want everyone to understand the event so you can maximize the great time you will have on **Sunday, May 21.**

KIDS (17 AND UNDER) RIDE FREE. THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT AND WE ENCOURAGE KIDS ON HORSEBACK.
HOWEVER, THEY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN PRIZES

- The event will be at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area, same as for the scavenger hunt.
- Camping is available in the developed campground and overflow area. Make your camping reservations through the State Parks reservation system www.parks.state.wa.us/223/reservations or call 888-226-7688.
- Either a Discover Pass (Day or Annual) or camping permit is required. For a list of Discover Pass vendors go to <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/133/where-t-buy>. To purchase on-line go to <https://store.discoverpass.wa.gov/>. You may purchase a Day Pass at registration.
- We start the day at registration near the announcers stand where both pre-registered and those registering at the event sign in. You receive your playing card here.
- Also, at registration you may purchase additional poker hands. It is like playing multiple bingo cards for additional chances of winning at poker.
- After registering join us in the gathering area to purchase raffle tickets for some great items and play the first card of your poker hand. You can also purchase a poker ride T-shirt and Riverside State Park map. Then you are on the trail any time you want between 9:00 and 11:00 am. **Poker games close at 2:00 PM so please be back to the gathering area by then.**
- We ask that you do NOT run your horses. We know this is fun, but we have many people on the trail and we need to be respectful of the reaction horses have when they see other horses running. This is not a timed event. **Thank you.**
- You will be riding with your friends in a designated area following a trail well marked with engineer tape at your own speed (but remember no running).
- In playing the poker ride game you are trying to get the best, or worst poker hand. You do this by stopping at “game stations” along the trail to play a “game of skill.” This determines the next card in your hand. The “game of skill” is tossing a bean bag at a board lined with a deck of cards. Where your bean bag lands determines your playing card. You may remain mounted or dismount.
- There are three “game stations” along the trail.
- Return to the gathering area to play the last card of your hand by 2:00 PM, purchase that last minute T-shirt and park map and check the winner’s board to see what raffle items you may have won.
- Relax and enjoy a box lunch if you desire.
- **Raffle tickets are drawn at 11:00. Raffle tickets must be purchased before 11:00 AM.**

Please see the flier and registration form to learn more about the poker ride. **This year you can preregister online at www.pbchw.com or by mail by May 9, or you may register at the ride.**

We hope that everyone joins us for a great day in the saddle. Thank you for supporting Back Country Horsemen and our efforts to keep trails open to equestrians.

7th Annual
VICKI GISH MEMORIAL RIDE
SPONSORED BY NORTHEAST CHAPTER OF BCHW



July 14, 15 & 16, 2023

Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Please: Join us for 1, 2 or 3 days of camaraderie, riding and fun. Bring your Vicki stories to share with everyone around the camp-fire.

Place: Calispel Basin/ Meadow (Sand Canyon), Colville National Forest, Chewelah, WA. (Weed seed free forage required) Chewelah, WA. Signs will be posted after the pavement ends on Sand Canyon Road. Contact Marian Carson at mca9590561@msn.com or call 509-999-1547 for printed directions or information. Trails are easy to medium difficulty with good footing. Trails will be well marked so you can go on your own or with someone who knows them.

For safety: No stallions or dogs on trails. Dogs must be on leash in camp.

Potluck: On Saturday night. Bring your favorite pot luck to share or, if you prefer, dutch-oven cooking is fine.

Free: Overnight camping available. Stock water and porta-potties available.

Come see what the **Back Country Horsemen** are all about!

