



# PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of  
Washington

"Educate, Advocate, and Move Dirt!"

Website: PBCHW.COM



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February 2024



Mucking Around in the Mud

## PBCH CALENDAR

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

February 6 Member Meeting at  
Hayford Community Church

February 27 Board Meeting

March 5 Member Meeting

March 15-17 BCHW  
Rendezvous in Ellensburg

March 23 4H Tack Sale

March 26 Board Meeting

April 2 Member Meeting

April 30 Board Meeting

May 7 Member Meeting

# What's The Plan, Sam\*?

## By Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor

The theme of this newsletter is “Planning.” Let’s start with some potential 2024 plans for Ponderosa BCH, from the January Meeting Notes:

Potential work parties for 2024:

- Hitching rails for Riverside and Mt. Spokane – still pending approval by State Parks
- Fishtrap – trail sign installation and repair
- Lakeview – repairs needed on the corrals (**Already Done! Thanks BLM!!**)
- Installation of more corrals at the campground at Riverside
- Maintenance on Obstacle Course at Riverside (Looking for someone to lead this effort.)
- Riverside arena maintenance

Other activities might include chapter rides for Thursday evenings beginning this spring.

Linda White and Patty Wright volunteered to chair the Poker Ride event. (**Thanks Patty and Linda!!!**)

Linda White may also host some play days this year.

**The February 6 Member Meeting will be going over these plans and looking forward and brainstorming ideas for 2024. Come and help and eat some cookies. Also, there will be door prizes. At Hayford Community Church: 5:30 for social time, 6 pm for meeting.**

The newsletters this year will come out approximately quarterly. The next newsletter is planned for May, and the request for articles will come out in mid-April. The theme for the May Newsletter will be: Listen and Learn. Tell me the things you have learned from your horse, or how you continue to learn horsemanship. Tell me your favorite books, videos, podcasts, newsletters, websites, or other sources for learning about horsemanship, trail riding, or other horse-related skills and information.

*\*Okay, I googled it, and apparently only my family uses the phrase: “What’s the Plan, Sam?” The similar and more famous phrase is: “Make a new plan, Stan”, from the Paul Simon song, 50 Ways to Leave Your Lover. Which has nothing to do with horses or trail riding, but does have something to do with planning, I suppose. The song lyric rhymes are going through your head now, aren’t they? Mine, too.*

# Planning for PBCH

## By Ken Carmichael

This issue of the PBCH newsletter is dedicated to Planning. So, it fits in well with the need for chapter planning.

On October 23, 2023, we started the 2024 planning process with a meeting of chapter members. Input was provided on what we want to do in 2024. This included work parties, meetings, newsletters, rides, fundraising and education.

The process is not over. We still need input from chapter members. What we accomplish and the services we provide depends on member participation. What activities or information would you like in BCH? Please let us know.

As the snow flies it is not too soon to plan our personal riding and camping schedule. PBCH will have some rides and other events. Three events that are scheduled are:

- Friday – Sunday, March 15-17 BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg
- Sunday, June 23 – Ponderosa **Poker Ride**
- Saturday, June 29 – Open House at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area

This third event is new so takes some explanation. The **Riverside State Park Foundation** is holding several open houses around the park in June and July to encourage people to enjoy this great venue. PBCH will be hosting the event at the equestrian area. BCH has contributed greatly to the facilities here and we want to encourage people to enjoy them.

So, get out your calendars and start planning for the riding season. It is what we make of it and planning is the first step.

Member input and participation in PBCH is part of the planning process.

A footnote on another subject. As we know who the PBCH 2024 members are we will be sending out an Excel spreadsheet with a membership list. This is handy for knowing who is in the chapter and possible riding partners. Watch for this list in your email.

Image from pexels.com



## 2024 PONDEROSA BCH Planning Calendar (as of 1/25/24)

*All dates subject to change; watch emails and Facebook.*

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

<b>January</b> January 2 Member Meeting January 30 PBCH Board Meeting	<b>February (Newsletter this month)</b> February 6 Member Meeting at Hayford Community Church 5 30 social, 6 pm Start February 27 Board Meeting End of February Volunteer Hours Due
<b>March</b> March 5- Member Meeting March 15-17- BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg March 22- Set up for 4H Tack Sale Booth March 23- Spokane County 4H Tack Sale March 26- Board Meeting	<b>April</b> April 2- Member Meeting April 23- May Newsletter submissions due <b>April 30- Board meeting</b>
<b>May (Newsletter this Month)</b> May 7- Member Meeting May 28- Board Meeting	<b>June</b> June 4- Member Meeting June 23 – Ponderosa <b>Poker Ride</b> June 25- Board Meeting June 29 – Open House at the Riverside State Park Equestrian Area
<b>July</b> July 2- Member Meeting July 23-Newsletter submissions due July 30- Board Meeting	<b>August (Newsletter this Month)</b> August 6- Member Meeting August 27- Board Meeting
<b>September</b> September 3- Member Meeting Sept 6-8- Joel Conner Horsemanship Clinic; <i>contact Linda White, and see flyer at the end of the newsletter</i> September 24- Board Meeting	<b>October</b> October 1- Member Meeting October 22- November Newsletter submissions due October 29- Board Meeting
<b>November (Newsletter this Month)</b> November 5- Member Meeting November 26- Board Meeting	<b>December</b> December TBD Christmas Party Member Meeting

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

Speaking of Planning and Calendars, the **Discover Pass free days** for 2024 are:

- Monday, Jan. 1 - First Day Hikes and New Year's Day
- Monday, Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Saturday, March 9 - Billy Frank Junior's Birthday
- Tuesday, March 19 - State Parks 111th Birthday
- Monday, April 22 - Earth Day
- Saturday, June 8 - National Get Outdoors Day
- Sunday, June 9 - Free Fishing Day
- Wednesday, June 19 - Juneteenth
- Saturday, Sept. 28 - National Public Lands Day
- Thursday, Oct. 10 - World Mental Health Day
- Monday, Nov. 11 - Veterans Day
- Friday, Nov. 29 - Autumn Day

KHQ News provided this information: The Discover Pass Program was created through legislation passed in 2011 to assist the state land agencies preserve and conserve public lands for future generations. The legislation also directed these agencies to designate up to 12 free days annually.

A Discover Pass costs \$30 to \$35 annually, or \$10 to \$11.50 per one-day visit, depending on the point of purchase. Free days do not apply to Sno-Park permits, which are available to purchase for use from November through April.

## **-The Discover Pass - Your Ticket to Washington's Great Outdoors-**

For more information, see the website here: <https://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>



## **Hello Ponderosa Friends!**

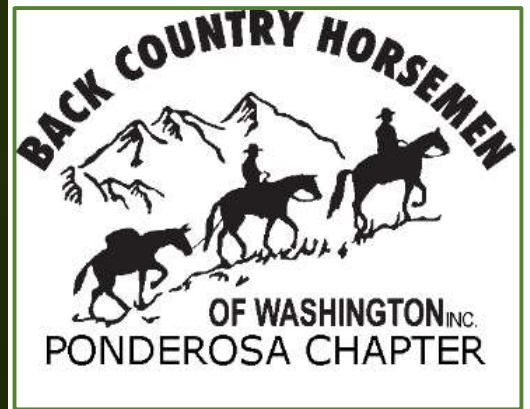
**We aren't bluffing - the Poker Ride is returning in 2024!**

Please save June 23rd for this event, which will take place at the Equestrian Area of Riverside State Park. We'll deal some fun with prizes for the two best hands, lo-ball hand, and raffles! Tell your friends, tell your neighbors, ante up and come along yourself to ride or help for a couple of hours to hit the jackpot: promoting our club and continuing doing what we do best - keep public lands accessible for equine use and the community at large.

- Linda White and Patty Wright, Co-Chairs



*Image of a tree on a bluff. (From Friends of Palisades Website)*



**Don't forget your  
Discover Pass!!!**

**PONDEROSA BACK COUNTRY  
HORSEMEN**

**POKER RIDE**

**June 23, 2024**

**Riverside State Park Equestrian Area**

**1<sup>st</sup> Riders out 9 am – Last Rider out 11  
am**

**Game Ends 2:00 pm**

**RAFFLES ! PRIZES !**

**Prizes for Best Hand, 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Hand & LoBall  
Hand**

**Pre-Registration \$30**

**On-Site Registration \$45**

**Extra Hands \$5**

**18 & Under Ride Free**

**Online Registration**

**[http: \(coming soon\)](http://(coming soon))**

**Closes 6/19/24**

**For More Information**

**Linda White, 509-413-7392,**

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

**Or**

**Patty Wright, 509-868-6269,**

**[pa2t2002@gmail.com](mailto:pa2t2002@gmail.com)**

# **BCHW Training Sessions**

## **By Ken Carmichael**

BCHW does its share of planning and part of this is providing training to members, officers and committee chairs.

BCHW and chapters as an organization requires a great deal of work by many volunteers. This is further complicated by the fact that BCHW is comprised of 31 chapters, and new volunteers are always coming on board. This is good.

Because of these facts, it is a challenge to keep everyone trained on the procedures required to have the organization run smoothly and effectively. We do this in several ways. Some of these include newsletters, emails, BCHW website, board meetings, reports by officer and seminars.

All of these depend on the membership participating by either reading material or attending events.

We have used several methods of communicating to the entire BCHW membership on an annual basis in January. This is to reach new officers and committee chairs and to encourage members to learn more about BCH and participate. This has included a central meeting in Ellensburg and regional meetings. Because of the difficulty in traveling at this time of year, Zoom meetings have become popular. In the past we have dedicated one Saturday and conducted several classes with simultaneous presentations.

This year we tried something different. On January 6 there was a general meeting where we talked about:

- History of BCH
- Public lands
- Legislative activities
- Volunteer hours

Then through January and February one hour Zoom sessions are held, primarily in the evening, on topics important to BCH. All members are informed of these meetings and encouraged to attend.

This is just a personal opinion but when I belong to an organization I want to know about it, how it functions and be able to contribute to its success. BCHW and PBCH provide many opportunities for members to learn and participate, but members must take the initiative to be involved. Membership is appreciated but unless there is participation, the organization cannot survive to keep trails open for you.

*Editors note: Most of the training events were recorded and can be found at [BCHW.org](http://BCHW.org).*



# Horse Evacuation Planning and Poor Planning

By Cindy Miller

I never expected to be evacuating my horses. I thought we were safe. It caught me by surprise! I saw the fire coming over the hill and thought we had at least a half hour, until the knock on the door by a sheriff telling us to leave immediately. The winds had shifted. At the same time the sheriff was on the front porch my phone rang from the boarding facility two miles away. They said come immediately and get your horses out. They were loading up, but wanted to take my old boy Cooper with them so that another horse would load easier. His presence calmed their horse, and when I arrived, they were pulling out. That left me and a 4-year-old Zen, who was only in the beginning stages of learning to load. I was alone with him, and the house down the road was on fire. Smoke was thick in the air.

Here is where the planning comes in. My trailer was in good condition, air in tires, lights all worked. Zen loaded with confidence the first time I asked. I threw a couple of bales in the back and off we went. **Teach your horse to load well and without hesitation!!** I don't know how much panic I would have felt if this horse would not have loaded. My alternate plan was to head for the marsh area with him, and I really didn't think that would be too much fun with my gimpy leg healing from an accident.

Now, where to go. I called a few friends who said, yes, bring him here. I headed east down the road, only to be turned around by fire in that direction. I took another route, where I was stopped by a roadblock. I could not travel east; all roads were closed, at least the routes I knew. It seems all friends who had horse facilities lived east of me. I ended up in the Yokes parking lot in Cheney putting out an SOS call to anyone who could take Zen west, ie. Tyler, or out that way. Facebook friends responded and I headed down 904 west, along with bumper-to-bumper cars going west, in addition to traffic diverted onto 904 from the closed I-90 freeway (18 wheelers for miles).

The wonderful people I didn't know had a nice area for Zen, and he was fairly calm. All was going as good as it could be. I left and traveled to find Gary in the RV. He had found a place to take the RV and camp for the night. At 2:00 a.m. my phone rang, and Zen's temporary home had to be evacuated soon. They were now in evacuation mode as the fire had jumped I-90 again. They said they were leaving in 15 minutes with as many animals as they could. Please come ASAP. I jumped in the pickup, and for a person who can't drive in the dark, it was a challenge (there was smoke!). I made it there, and again, Zen loaded peacefully and quickly, along with goats and donkeys filling my two-horse trailer. We couldn't travel to the Spokane Fairgrounds because roads were still blocked, so headed toward Ritzville Fairgrounds. It was a great place to be, and Gary joined me there with the full hookup RV.

We were there for four days. Because I left before packing, and Gary was rushed out of our home, he only had bare essentials, and nothing for me! **I think a bag should be already packed, even months before the wildfire season.**

I am sharing this story because it could happen to you! Be prepared. Wildfires are here and everywhere. With windy conditions, they can travel quickly and end up in your back yard. Please take heed from this story to plan ahead for a wildfire coming your way.

See more on preparedness here: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/3010/Community-Resilience>

## **Goal Setting**

**By Linda White**

It's the New Year and along with it comes resolutions and goal setting. I went to a goal setting meeting last week with my current trainer and was surprised how easy it was and fun!

It seems we all want to improve our riding and horse skills. To do that you need a goal and a plan that helps you work to that goal. Otherwise, we may not succeed.

At our meeting we wrote down goals we had for the year and one step that we would take that would help us get there. It is important to write it down. There's just something about writing it and putting it on paper that helps. Your goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timebound. This is called a SMART goal. Goals can evolve and once a goal is met you can set another.

An example would be you want to do more trail riding. This is not a measurable goal and how would you know if you achieved it. A more specific goal could be I will do 4 trail rides a month for months of June – August. A first step for this goal might be locating a trail map or identifying someone to ride with.

Then we wrote down 5 things that really scared us and again how or what are we going to do to overcome these things.

So get busy and think about what you want to achieve with horses this year!

*Editor's Note: I don't know if Old Man Winter is done with us yet, but here is some good information about keeping water troughs clear of ice. Although I'm pretty sure only the heater method would work during one of our Arctic Blasts.*

## **Keeping Water Troughs Thawed with or Without a Heater**

- **From TheHorse.com; December 19, 2023**
- **Posted by Clair Thunes, PhD**

We all know how important it is for our horses to have ready access to water, but this can pose challenges when temperatures fall below freezing and you're unable to use a water heater. It's a lot of, literally, digit-numbing work and sometimes near impossible to break the ice when temperatures fall. There are some things you can try that might help. However, keep in mind that many of these are less effective as temperatures decrease.

### **1. Locate your trough for sun exposure.**

Place your trough in such a way that it receives as much full sun as possible. Many northern areas might not see much winter sun, but placing the tank in a south-facing area will increase the odds of as much sunlight as possible during daylight hours. Also, consider whether a shaded area is a good idea. While some shade, for example the overhang of a building, might offer some protection from cold overnight, it likely means less sun exposure during the day. If you live in an area where the trough will freeze whether it is under some kind of shade or not, I would place it where it will get the most daytime sunlight.

### **2. Insulate your trough.**

Obviously this helps keep the exterior cold out and the interior warmth of the water in. Styrofoam board and/or foil covered insulation works well and can be wrapped around the outside of the trough. What works even better is putting one trough inside another, with a gap of a couple of inches all the way around. Then, place insulation on the bottom between the two troughs and around the outside of the interior trough. Finally, fill any gaps with spray insulation that sets hard. You can also build a plywood box, line it with insulation, and put your trough inside it.

Ideally, the top of the trough also needs to be insulated with just enough surface exposed for the horses to drink. A plywood lid with the underside covered in insulation works well.

Online resources for those living off the grid have useful information about how to build insulated troughs and use passive solar heating to reduce freezing. Some report that this is an effective method down to -10° Fahrenheit.

### **3. Place a float in the trough.**

Floating something in the trough helps in a couple of ways. First, it keeps the surface of the water moving as it bobs about, making it more difficult to freeze. Second, if the horses learn to depress the floating object, it will expose an open area in the ice so they can drink. I have seen

this done with soccer balls, but another tactic is to fill an empty two-liter soda bottle two-thirds full with water and 1 to 2 cups of salt dissolved and seal tightly. There is enough air in the bottle for it to float, and salt water freezes at a lower temperature than the water in the trough, so the water keeps moving. These methods receive mixed reviews. Some people swear by them, while others find they don't work at all.

#### **4. Bury your trough.**

If your ground is frozen it is likely too late this year, but digging a hole for your trough and sinking it into the ground might help by insulating it. Again, this is going to depend on where you live and how deep down your ground freezes. I read one account from someone living in North Dakota who used a fence post auger to dig a 12-inch hole several feet deep under their water trough. Apparently the heat rising from deep within the earth helped prevent the trough from freezing.

#### **5. Heat your trough.**

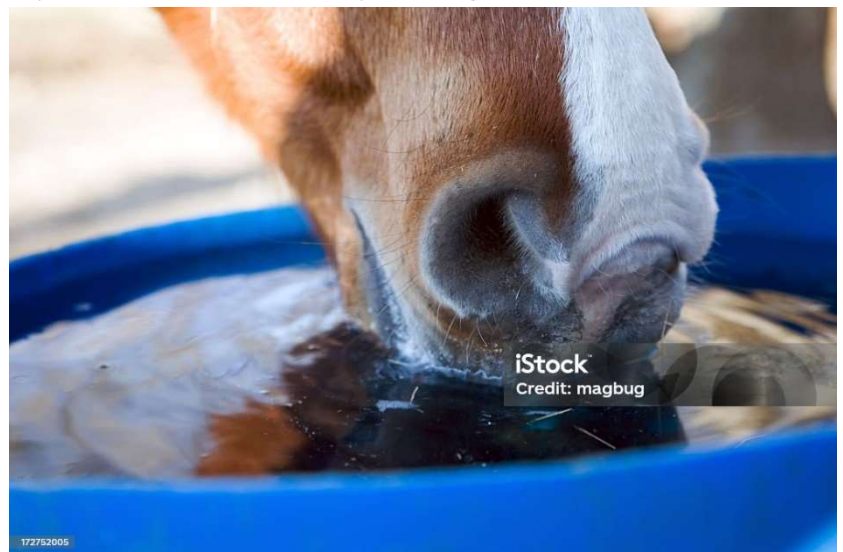
Ultimately, you might need to break down and heat your trough. There are several options, including battery, electric, or propane heaters. But before trying these you could try putting manure under your trough. Composting manure generates heat, and the thinking is that if you have a several-inches-thick layer of manure under your trough, as it breaks down it will help warm the trough.

If you decide to use a battery, electric, or propane water-heating element, be sure to install it safely. Follow the manufacturer's instructions, be sure to keep all cables out of the way, and have no connections near water. Definitely consider having a lid on the trough, as it will not only help keep the heat in but also help prevent your horse from accessing the heating element.

Actively heating your trough in combination with one or more of the above ideas will likely reduce energy costs.

Regardless of what methods you decide to try, you should still work on the assumption that you will need to check water at least twice a day to ensure availability during cold weather.

*This is a closeup of cow drinking water from blue container, per the photo source. Hee hee...*



*Editor's note: The following article summary is a good one for me to keep in mind this year. I broke my arm on September 19, then, due to freakishly bad luck, again on November 20. It's been a long winter with little activity for me, and the horses have basically just been fed and petted on the nose. I'm getting close to being ready to do some work with the horses, and will start with ground work, since they've had a long time off. Once I get respect and attention on the ground, I will move on to riding, first just on my property. This will all start as soon as I can clean hooves without pain. I'm so close...*

## **Maintain Your Winter Riding Goals**

The Horse Illustrated Newsletter had an article about Winter Horse Riding Goals.

([https://www.horseillustrated.com/maintain-your-winter-riding-goals?utm\\_source=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=HI\\_RNL\\_January+06\\_2023](https://www.horseillustrated.com/maintain-your-winter-riding-goals?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=HI_RNL_January+06_2023)). Rather than copying the whole article by Shelby Agnew, I will just summarize the main points here.

1. Set Realistic Winter Horse Riding Goals.
  - a. Given the weather, and your horses training, set realistic goals and small steps to get there.
2. Be flexible.
  - a. Adjust and adapt to your horse's needs.
3. Mix Things Up.
  - a. Keep your horse from getting sour, by trying new disciplines, or new exercises. Try ground work, or ground driving, or new obstacles.
4. Understand and Overcome External Obstacles.
  - a. Dress warm. Get to the barn early during daylight.
5. You are the Company You Keep.
  - a. Hold yourself accountable to your goals, and follow in with your commitments.
  - b. Work with a friend or peer to motivate yourself.
6. Enjoy the Journey.
7. Don't let winter blues hold you back.
  - a. Just get outside, to the barn, or out with your horses.



**Here Comes the Mud!**  
**Prompted by Patty Wright (with additions from Michelle E.)**

Thanks to Patty Wright for asking for muddy horse pictures on our member page and via emails. Thanks to the contributors to Patty's contest. She said the winner receives all our sympathies.

I'm adding my pic of Vali to the mix.



## **Joel Conner Natural Horsemanship Clinic**

**By Linda White**

**Sept 6-8, 2024**

Meet Joel Conner. Joel is a remarkable horseman & teacher who follows classic vaquero horsemanship. His philosophy follows the traditions of Ray Hunt, Tom and Bill Dorrance, and Buck Brannaman, Joel has trained with Buck for many years as one of his top mentees.

Joel is passionate about teaching new students and experienced hands alike. He has been offering clinics since 2015 in various parts of the US and in Ireland. Joel has been instrumental working with Save A Forgotten Equine (S.A.F.E.) Rescue in Seattle teaching the trainers and helping with the rescued horses.

Two classes will be offered. Each will be 3 hours in length of the three days. Class sizes are limited in order to have one on one instruction. Students are welcomed to audit the class they are not enrolled in.

Foundation Horsemanship will be in the mornings 9 am to 12 pm and will consist of groundwork, building respect and riding preparation.

The Horsemanship Class will be in the afternoons, 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Here we will be in the saddle developing a soft, supple, and understanding horse.

Each 3-day class (Foundation Horseman, Horsemanship Class) is \$450. Participants may take one or both classes. Auditors are welcome, \$25 each day. Auditing is a wonderful way to experience the vaquero style and learning through observation and questions.

Contact Linda White, 509-413-7392 or [linda43562@hotmail.com](mailto:linda43562@hotmail.com) for more information and/or to register. *(Also see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.)*



*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*



### **BCH Officers 2024**

**PRESIDENT: DOUG BAILEY**

**(CURRENTLY NO VICE PRESIDENT)**

**SECRETARY: PATTI CARMICHAEL**

**TREASURER: KEN CARMICHAEL**

**STATE DIRECTOR: KEN CARMICHAEL**

**ALT. STATE DIR.: DOUG BAILEY**

*The 2024 Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor; Linda White, Member At Large; and Trail Boss for Work Parties (Vacant)*



## Joel Conner Horsemanship Clinic

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Sept 6-8, 2024

### 9 am - 12 pm, Foundation Horsemanship Class

Will consist of groundwork, moving the forequarter, hindquarters, and riding preparation to enhance your relationship with your horse.

### 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Horsemanship Class

We will be in the saddle developing a soft, supple, and understanding horse.

## WHO

Joel is a remarkable horseman & teacher whose dedication to classic vaquero horsemanship is unparalleled. He follows the traditions of Ray Hunt, Tom & Bill Dorrance, and Buck Brannaman. Joel is passionate about teaching new students and experienced hands alike. He has conducted clinics for S.A.F.E., across the US and in Great Britain.

## WHERE

Equestrian Area  
Arena,  
Riverside State  
Park,  
Spokane, WA

## COST

\$450 PER  
SESSION

\$800 BOTH  
SESSIONS

\$25 AUDIT FEE  
PER DAY

MAXIMUM 12  
STUDENTS PER  
SESSION

## REGISTER:

Contact: Linda White,  
[linda43562@hotmail.com](mailto:linda43562@hotmail.com)

CAMPING AVAILABLE WITH  
STALLS:

RIVERSIDE STATE PARK  
EQUESTRIAN AREA.  
[HTTPS://WASHINGTON.GOINGTOCAMP.COM/](https://WASHINGTON.GOINGTOCAMP.COM/)

## Notes

1. I couldn't figure out how to get rid of this blank page.

2. Here's hoping we get a nice early Spring!

3. Add more notes below, as needed.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

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