



PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of
Washington

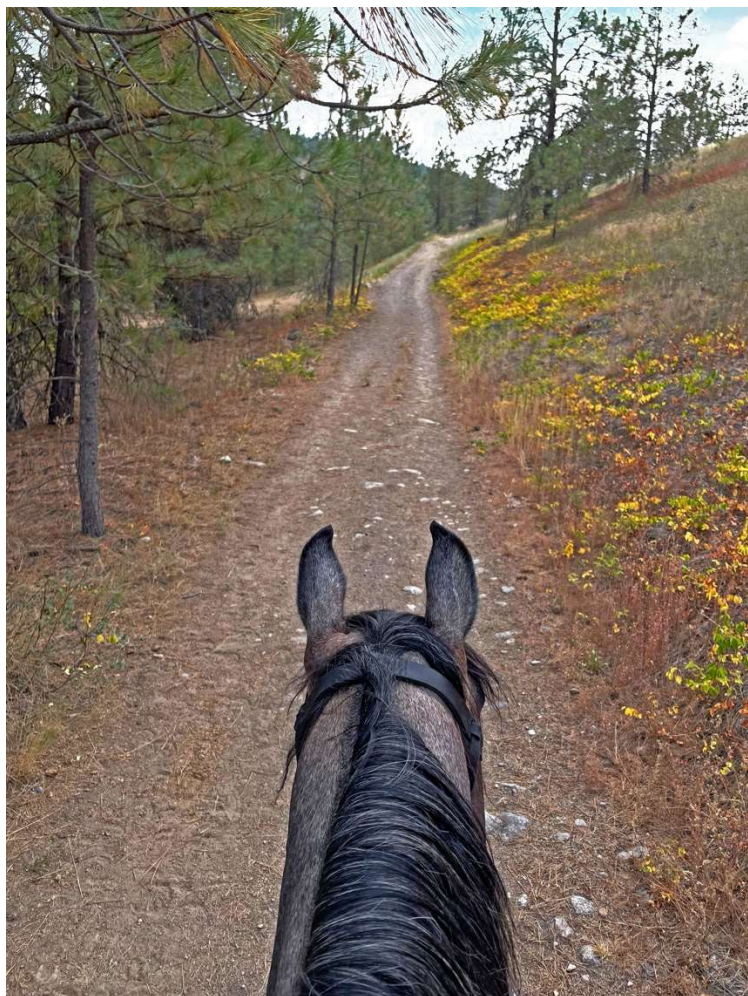
"Educate, Advocate, and Move Dirt!"

Website: PBCHW.COM



October 2024

It's beginning to look like fall.



PBCH CALENDAR

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

Sept 24/25- RSP Corrals Work Party

September 28: Palisades Park work party.

September 30: Volunteer hours due

October 1- Member Meeting at Airway Heights Library

October 26- BCHW Winery Ride

October 29- Board Meeting??

November 5- Member Meeting

Notes from Membership and Board Meetings:

In September at our PBCH Member Meeting, we discussed the future of our group. The future depends on having at least the minimum number of officers, and an active membership. The consensus of the meeting was to continue for another year and try more creative ways to draw member interest.

At this time, several individuals have offered to run for office, but there is still time and opportunity for others to be nominated. Elections will be held at our October 1 meeting. The meeting will be held in the meeting room at the Airway Heights Library. It will begin at 6:15 pm, and we are planning to offer a ZOOM link.

The following individuals have currently offered to run for office:

President: Patty Wright

Vice President: no nominee at this time.

Treasurer: Linda White

Secretary: Melissa Halpin

State Director: Ken Carmichael has another year to serve in this position.

Alternate State Director: no nominee at this time.

Please note that Volunteer hours are due to Patty Wright by September 30. The BCHW Winery Ride on October 26 still needs volunteers. Read about this and other volunteer opportunities in the following articles.

Palisades Park Work Party

From Craig Volosing:

Here is an opportunity for Back Country Horsemen to do some needed work right in the "front" country; a chance for us to help create a brand-new trail in a brand-new riding area! The location is the "Rimrock to Riverside" addition to Palisades Park. You will recall that our chapter participated in the campaign to add this land to the Park. The chapter also provided input in the laying out of this 1.5-mile loop, situated on the northside of Houston Road, between Grove Road and Rimrock Drive. Now we can help build it! We are part of a partnership that includes the Friends of Palisades, Washington Trails Association, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. How's that for some collaboration?!?! Let's be [represented at](#) this opportunity.

The work party will take place Saturday, September 28th. As it happens, this is National Public Lands Day. Gather at the trailhead at Houston Rd. and Rimrock Drive on the north end of Palisades Park. Pastries and Coffee will be served at 8:15 am. Work will begin at 9:00am. Quitting time is 3:30 pm but if you can only do a half-day, that's okay! Dress for shovel and pick work. Please bring your own lunch and water. No sawing or brushing will be necessary.

To make this as smooth and easy as possible, please follow the link here to the Friends of Palisades Events page: <https://www.friendsofpalisades.com/events> . From there you will take the link to Inland Northwest Land Conservancy. There you will register for this most valued use of your volunteer time and effort!

Any questions? You are welcome to contact Craig Volosing.

Many thanks!!!

Chapter Opportunities

By Ken Carmichael

Several opportunities to participate in BCH activities are happening at the end of September and October. Here is a rundown of some events.

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to help **install new corrals in Riverside State Park**. We put this notice out by email as our projected date was September 24 and 25.

Chuck Rice has been busy building **hitchrails for Riverside State Park**. We already installed the one at the equestrian area. Next is to install two of them at the Seven Mile Airstrip. We anticipate that this will be done the first week of October, date to be determined. State Parks provides an auger. We will set the hitchrails and put concrete in the holes. Pretty simple work. **If you are interested in helping, please give me a call so we can plan a date.**

The **BCHW Winery Ride at Zillah, Washington**, is Saturday, October 26. This is a big fundraiser with hundreds of riders going between wineries tasting and purchasing wine. It takes close to 100 volunteers to manage the event. The event is sold out, but we still need volunteers. Patti and I go each year. We manage the Information booth on Friday during registration. On Saturday Patti is a winery host, which is fun, and I manage the crew that will haul all the wine from the wineries to base camp. We have a cook that provides meals Friday morning through Sunday morning. There is free camping for the volunteers. It is just a fun event to participate in and you get to help BCHW. **If you would like to volunteer, please go to the BCHW website www.bchw.org . Scroll down the home page to the winery ride picture. There you can register to help. If you have any questions please call me.**

Look for other articles in this newsletter concerning chapter officer elections on October 1st and the work party at Palisades Park September 28th.

Everything we do in support of BCH needs to be documented in our **Volunteer Hours Report**. The volunteer hours year runs from October 1 through September 30, 2024. This is important. Please contact Patty Wright with your hours. If you have questions, ask Patty.

Riding has been good this year. We have enjoyed Riverside State Park, Mt. Spokane State Park, Rustlers Gulch, Fish Trap and Escure Ranch. Hopefully we will ride well into the fall.

2024 BCHW 23rd Annual Winery Ride and Halloween Costume Contest, October 26th



2024 PONDEROSA BCH Planning Calendar (as of 9/21/24)

All dates subject to change; watch emails and Facebook.

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

<p>September</p> <p>September 24 and potentially 25-Riverside Corrals work party (see emails for info) September 28-Palisades Park Work Party September 30- Volunteer hours due</p>	<p>October</p> <p>October 1- Member Meeting at Airway Heights Library October 1- Membership renewals for 2025 begin October 26- BCHW Winery Ride October 29- Board Meeting??</p>
<p>November</p> <p>November 5- Member Meeting November 26- Board Meeting??</p>	<p>December</p> <p>December TBD Christmas Party Member Meeting</p>
<p>2025 Future Dates:</p> <p>January 16, 2025- Membership renewal deadline March 14-16, 2025-BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg.</p>	<p>(This is an empty box. Be careful that your cat doesn't crawl into it.)</p>

Other events can be found here: https://www.bchw.org/upcoming_events.php

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area By Linda White

The club has been making repairs to the obstacle course. On Labor Day a small group consisting of June and Don Horton and Linda and David White removed and replaced the decking on the bridge. Don came super prepared, he even brought a table saw. On Sept 21st Linda and David White replaced the decking on the teeter totter. We have also purchased 8 more corrals that will be installed in the campground.

A GoFundMe account was set up to help offset the costs and we raised more than \$800 for improvements to the obstacles. Special thanks to Lincoln County Posse who donated \$500 dollars. We plan on rebuilding the ladder box and will have it installed in the spring. Thank you to everyone else who donated to this project.



BCHW Director Report

By Ken Carmichael

On Saturday, September 21, Patti and I attended the BCHW Board of Directors meeting in Ellensburg. I appreciate and enjoy representing Ponderosa at the BCHW level. Ponderosa has a position of Alternate Director open. This provides an excellent opportunity for a member to learn more about BCHW and I would welcome the help.

Committee reports were presented in writing and orally. Several motions were passed and as always there were some good discussion.

The meeting started with a presentation and discussion about Risk Management. All leaders and decision makers need to be aware of the duties of CARE, LOYALTY and OBEDIENCE. Another training opportunity was a noon round table discussion on Membership Development on how to market BCH in a non-Back Country market.

The Forest Service budgets will be significantly reduced in 2025. No seasonal help will be hired. We do not know how this will affect BCHW grants or volunteer support. The BCHW Sawyer Program is a big benefit to the Forest Service and they will try to continue to support the program.

In June BCHW will hold elections for: National Director Position # 2 and two Executive Committee positions. If you know of anyone interested please let me know.

We are concerned that a potential Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ruling could limit emergency trail work, such as coming out of the area and running into a blocked trail.

BCHA has state organizations from coast to coast. BCHW has the largest membership.

The Washington Trails Association Conference will be held in Wenatchee October 3-5. BCHW will make several presentations representing equestrians.

BCHW Rendezvous will be in Ellensburg March 14-16. Please plan on attending. BCHW is still looking for help and ideas.

The Winery Ride at Zillah, Washington, is October 26. We still need help with parking, transporting wine and being a winery host. Volunteers feed us Friday morning through Sunday morning. To sign up as a volunteer go to the BCHW website www.BCHW.ORG and scroll down the home page.

The Awards Committee is compiling nominations for BCHW awards that will be presented at Rendezvous. The program can be viewed at www.BCHW.ORG.

BCHW will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027. We need to determine how we will recognize this event. Ideas are welcome.

BCHW continues to support trail construction and repair through a variety of grants, and hard work.

Membership in BCH is on a calendar year. You can renew your membership for 2025 starting October 1. The deadline is January 16. The easiest way is to go online www.BCHW.ORG. Or I can provide a paper copy of the form.

The Sawyer Certification program is planning for late winter and early spring classes. You can register online. The classroom instruction will be available at Rendezvous. Also, at Rendezvous there will be a class on how to sharpen chain saws and power brush cutter.

If you ever receive an email appearing to be from BCH asking you to provide funds, particularly gift cards, do not open, delete it immediately and do NOT forward it.

BCHW uses a centralized accounting system but each chapter's funds are identified separately. If you ever have any questions concerning BCH finances, please contact me.

Please turn in your volunteer hours to Patty Wright. These are important as they show the great support BCHW provides to our public lands. If you have questions, please contact Patty Wright.

BCHW approved a Social Media Procedures Policy for the state. This will be reviewed with the PBCH Board.

BCHW approved a Financial Policy for Credit Cards. This was necessary because some card holders have not complied with necessary time frames. This will be discussed with those in PBCH that have credit cards.

BCHW approved the 2025 BCHW budget. PBCH will do a budget in January.

Thank you for your membership in BCH and all your participation.

Newsletter Theme: Best or Favorite Ride

Edith! By Patty Wright

Sometimes the best rides aren't spectacular because of the scenery; what makes them special is the company you're with.

Many years ago (ok, maybe 10) I was riding with a new, and soon-to-become-dear, friend Cynthia. I was the one with the trailer, and she was the one with a go-anywhere, do-anything mare. Neither of us had been to Liberty Lake Park, so we set out with a paper map and good intentions.

The day started well, but our first adventure wasn't far down the road. After navigating I90 and through town, we missed the turn-off for the equestrian parking. For those of you who know, the road after the park entrance is quite narrow and winds around above the ORV area. There aren't too many places you can make a "U-y" with a trailer, even a 2-horse bumper pull, and I was a real novice with backing a trailer. We found a wider spot in the road, and I proceeded to get the rig just about perfectly perpendicular to the road with little room on either end to maneuver. With much difficulty, and Cynthia standing in the road, hands and arms madly waving, trying to direct my efforts and hoping to block any traffic, I finally got turned and headed to the parking area.

Cynthia and I decided to ride to the Boy Scout cabin, taking the Edith Hansen memorial trail. Such a pretty ride across the bridge and along the creek, then a steep haul up got us to the part of the trail that heads southeast, skirting the flanks of Mica Peak. There's a strange thing about this area - there are a lot of small drainage washes cross the trail quite regularly. Each one had left a small amount of water across the path, and then the trail wends on around another curve in the mountain, to be repeated numerous times! OK, so, for whatever reason, those little wet areas seemed insurmountable to the horses, only to be addressed with much hesitation and crossed (finally) with a gigantic leap! Over and over as we proceeded... we felt like we were in a Twilight Zone episode. Cynthia and I kept looking at each other and wondering "Weren't we just here?"

Doodooodoodo... Then Cynthia started calling "Edith! EDITH! Help us! We're stuck in a never-ending trail loop! EDITH!"

Eventually we were up on the trail and, we thought, close to the cabin. "Look!" Cynthia shouted, "There it is!!!" As we got closer, the cabin seemed to shrink, until at last we realized..."It's only the outhouse!" Peals of laughter, nearly falling off the horses, we made the last few yards and saw the lowly cabin we'd been searching for hiding behind the single-seater. The cabin made a good place to rest the horses and have some lunch. Cynthia's mare was so tired she didn't even notice that one of her hind feet was resting on a rock like a pedestal.

Cynthia and I had many wonderful adventures exploring trails on those trustworthy mounts. It is so special when you get to ride with someone whose company you enjoy, whose riding skills and sense of adventure are about the same as your own, and when your horses are equally matched and willingly complicit in harebrained exploration!



Best Ride

By Ken Carmichael

The theme of the newsletter is best ride. That is hard to determine as it is just a matter of throwing your right leg over the saddle and it is a good ride.

We have done more riding in Riverside State Park. Typically, we just ride out of the barn. I have been keeping the trailer hitched to the pickup because of fire danger so we have trailered to the far ends of the park more often. This takes us to the equestrian area and to Carlson Trailhead. From Carlson we primarily ride north through the Troutman Property to the north end of the park. This is an easy ride in the trees.

But each year we always decide that the BLM Escure Ranch (aka Rock Creek Recreation Area) is the best ride of the year. We camp there for several nights and never want to come home. It is great camping with corrals, highline posts, outhouse, tables, fire rings and stock water. We can ride for days and never cover the same ground. It is true that the last 2.2 miles into the campground is a terrible road with potholes. The only solution for now is to go very slow.

There are many great places to ride near Spokane and we just can't get to them all. As I said, any ride is a good ride.



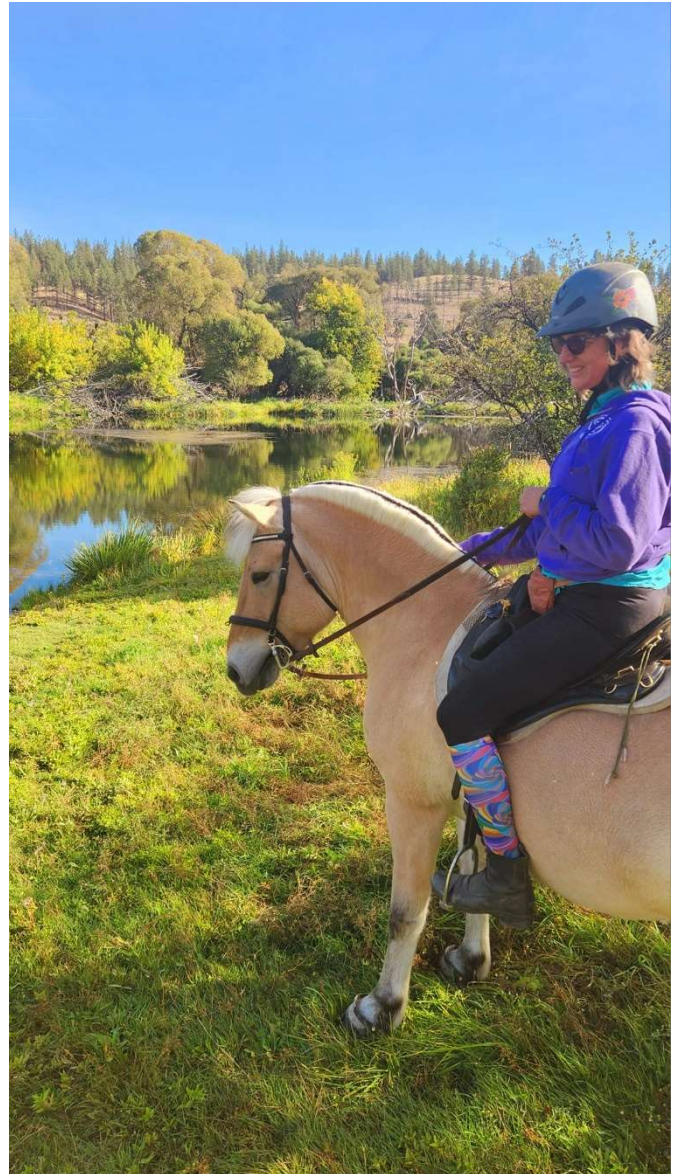
<https://www.blm.gov/visit/rock-creek-recreation-site-wa>

Favorite Rides

By Michelle Eames

I have two favorite rides that I never tire of. Of course, if I'm anywhere on the trail on my horse, I always enjoy the ride. My first favorite ride is a loop from Pine Bluff Trailhead, east to the power lines, down to the Spokane River, and around looping back to the trail head. My friends and I call it "Michelle's Loop", but I'm sure other folks found the loop before I did.

My other favorite ride is Mclellan Conservation Area. Coincidentally, this also makes a loop, part of which is along the Spokane River (Long Lake). So give me a horse, a trail, and a river and I'm happy! Ride on!



Best or Favorite Ride

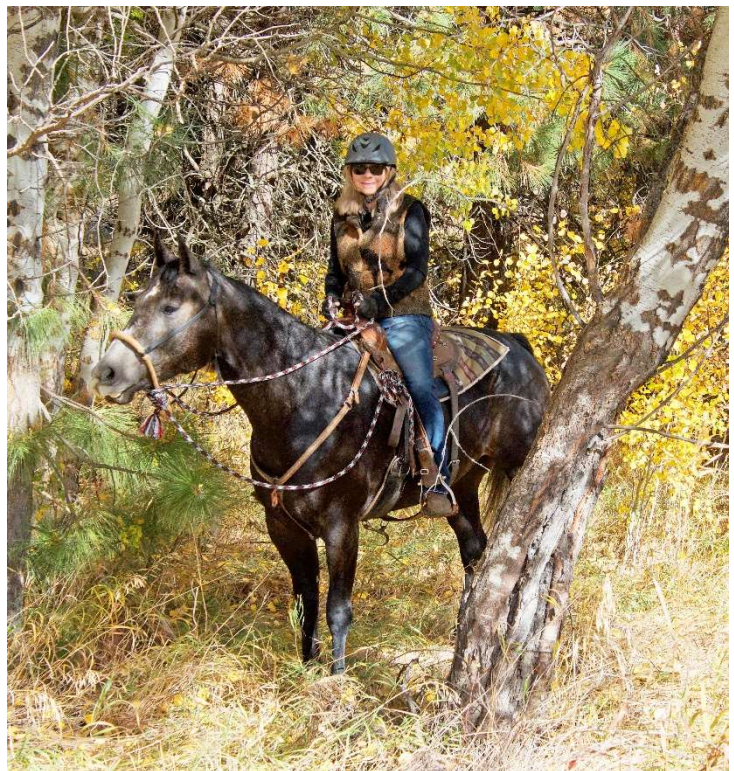
By Cindy Miller

I have not one but many favorite rides; however, they are all contingent upon meeting or not meeting the criteria below:

- The temperatures must be between 62 and 66 degrees for me to enjoy a blissful experience as I ride down the trails.
- There must be minimal wind. I will not ride if the gusts are more than 16-17 mph.
- My horse must be in a good mood, and I know when he is in a good mood.
- The roads driving to reach the designated trailhead must be in decent shape. I mean NO gravel roads decorated with pot holes or deep wiggly washboard designs will be tolerated.
- Travel time of more than an hour one way to ride for two hours will be avoided.
- Wild flowers must be in full bloom, and a few more colors besides yellow and purple are a bonus. I really like to see red (as in red paintbrush). If there are not many flowers available, the autumn foliage consisting of reds, yellows, and oranges is a welcome and wonderful substitute.
- I avoid rain (and snow, hail, sleet), but will ride immediately after the rain.

I am somewhat picky, but hey, I'm a senior citizen now and it works for me!

Here is a pic from a favorite ride. Notice I am surrounded by the colors of autumn, and the temperatures are cooler, and Zen looks as if he is in a good mood.



Note from the editor: Speaking of favorite rides, all trail rides are my favorite when my horse and I get back home safely. I saw this great article by Jennifer Paulson in the Horse&Rider Newsletter and Website. The key points are copied below.

Here is the original link: https://horseandrider.com/horseback-trail-riding/trail-safety/a-guide-to-staying-safe-on-the-trail-2/?lid=qxt0rgazngbb&utm_source=braze&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_content=HAR%20-%20Newsletter%20-%2020240806%20-%20Weekly&uuiid=

A Guide to Staying Safe On the Trail

By Jennifer Paulson

Hoof Blows

Situation: Kicks to horse or rider.

Avoid it: Stay safe by paying attention to your horse and those around yours you at all times. Whether on the move or standing still. Before you leave on your ride, tie a piece of red ribbon into the tail of any known or suspected kick-prone horse. It'll warn others not to come too close. Alert fellow riders if you need to stop, so that they can safely prepare their horses and avoid pileups.

Beware: Any stopping point, whether to retrieve dropped gear, tighten a cinch, or take a photo, poses an increased kicking risk, especially when you're riding in a group of unfamiliar horses. The situation puts the horses in what is, essentially, a herd environment. Throw in that they've been on the move and are suddenly stopped and agitated, and the risk of a kick is heightened. At stopping points, don't allow social herd interaction: sniffing, rubbing, nuzzling, which also can lead to kicks. Keep your horse's attention on you, while you stay aware of what's happening elsewhere. Position your horse's hindquarters away from any other horse. Be sure that none of the other horses' kicking gear is aimed at you or your horse.

Worst-case scenario: If horses do get a little friendly or frisky and another horse or a rider gets kicked, separate the horses immediately. Assess the injury. Will the horse/rider be able to continue on the ride? Will the items in the first-aid kit suffice for treatment, or is emergency help required? Kick-blows to riders should be regarded as potential emergencies, because they often strike bone or cause massive contusion.

Sucked Down

Situation: Bogs and quicksand.

Avoid it: Bogs and quicksand can be especially dangerous for a horse. He could start thrashing or panic, leading to severe soft-tissue damage. If you'll be riding a managed trail, call ahead to see if the trail is open. And if the terrain is suitable for horses. Often, a stretch of rainy, wet weather can lead to closed

trails because the footing isn't stable. If the trail is open in spite of a bog or quicksand, the trail service often will designate a safe detour around the poor footing.

Beware: If a boggy trail isn't heavily traveled by horses, the trail service might not know about the situation. If you're riding on private land, there'll be no trail service to rely upon. Keep your eyes open and pay attention to what's ahead. An unusually green area, for instance, indicates a water source, and the footing beneath that green may be boggy. Also, bogs can get deeper with each crossing, so traverse any questionable terrain one horse at a time.

Worst-case scenario: Stay calm. If you encounter a bog, keep your horse moving forward. The longer he stays in one place, the less momentum he'll have to get free. Stay out of his way, you might have to direct him to the safest area to exit, but try not to interfere with his head too much. Get up off his back, reach forward with your reins, and encourage him to keep going forward. It's a very fine line: You don't want the horse to panic, but you don't want him to stop completely and bog down even more. With quicksand, horses often can't get out without intervention or rescue.

Surprise Stingers

Situation: Attacks by ground-dwelling bees or wasps.

Avoid it: Be aware that ground-nesting bees and wasps can be an issue on trail rides. There's really no sure-fire way to anticipate where the underground nests lie. You can't see them like you could if they were in a tree.

The lead rider may notice insects buzzing a foot or so above a spot on the trail, indicating entrance to an underground nest. If you're at the front of the pack, be alert for such a sight, and plan to detour around it, alerting those behind you to do likewise. This might be an argument for using well-frequented trails, as ground-dwelling bees and wasps generally won't nest directly beneath a highly traveled path.

Beware: These insects get very agitated when horses tread over their nest, and their sting feels like a hot electric jolt. Often, the first two or three horses in the pack step on the nest and trigger a nest-defending attack. They might be stung in the belly or the flank, causing them to rear, kick out, buck, and panic.

Worst-case scenario: If you see this situation develop or the lead rider yells, "BEES!" or "WASPS!", move fast, either ahead or off the trail. If you're on such a narrow trail that you can't detour, be ready to high-tail it past the nest (at a lope, if necessary), and don't hold up the riders behind you. Should your horse gets stung and starts to buck, pull his head up and urge him forward to redirect his attention and lessen the chance of additional stings. The worst thing you can do is attempt to pull him to a stop, because that just gives the insects more opportunity to sting.

Extra caveat: You're just as likely to be stung as your horse is. If you're allergic to bee and/or wasp stings, always carry an EpiPen. Also, be sure that another rider knows where you keep it and how to administer it.

Water Woes

Situation: Water crossings.

Avoid it: When water runs high, or if your horse slips and falls while crossing water, things can get dicey. Always cross at a designated area, both for safety concerns and to conserve the surrounding environment. Even if a creek has a rocky, visible bottom, the entrance and exit should be clear if it's an established crossing. Call the trail service, if there is one, to ensure that all the water crossings are safe. Especially when the water is high and moving quickly.

Beware: In the event that a horse does go down in water or finds himself having to swim, he's going to need full use of his head and neck. Before crossing, un-dally ponied stock and remove tie-downs, martingales, and any other ropes and straps that could entangle your horse.

Worst-case scenario: The majority of horses instinctively know how to swim, so it's likely that the horse can take care of himself if you find yourself in unexpectedly deep water. If you can, stay with your swimming horse by holding onto the saddle horn. Give your horse his head so he can keep his balance and get you out of the situation.

If you can't hang on or your horse falls, place all of your effort toward safely getting away from your horse's feet as quickly as possible. A kick to the head could render you unconscious, which can be deadly in any situation involving water. Once you get clear of your horse, don't try to stand up, even if the water doesn't seem deep. Sit in the water with your feet up and pointed downstream in case swift water carries you away.

Dropped or Broken Gear

Situation: Unsecured/damaged gear.

Avoid it: Dropped water bottles, cameras, and hats; lost Chicago screws; broken reins or cinches-any and all of these can cause inconveniences and wrecks. Know how to secure your gear to your saddle, or ask someone who does to help you, to stay safe. Be sure that your gear fits your horse well and is in good condition before you take off. Carry only the necessities. Discuss what other riders are bringing along, do you really need duplicates?

Beware: If you have to stop the ride to retrieve or fix something, the chance of something else going wrong increases dramatically. A horse may get loose, for instance, or get into a kicking match with a neighboring one.

Worst-case scenario: If you or another rider does drop something, or a piece of gear breaks, alert the riders around you that you're going to stop and how you plan to solve the issue. If necessary, ask another rider for help. By keeping everyone apprised of what's happening, you'll help ensure that no one winds up in trouble. For example, none of the horses get loose.

Rubbed Raw

Situation: Girth sores.

Avoid it: Condition your horse well before taking him on a long or multi-day ride. Ensure that your cinch is clean, in good condition, and properly adjusted.

Beware: Check your horse for rubbing throughout the day. If he develops a sensitive spot, move your saddle and adjust your riggings.

Worst-case scenario: A saddle sore can get oozy and bloody and make the remainder of your ride very uncomfortable for you and your horse. Carry a few disposable diapers and ointment in your pack. Apply the ointment to the sore, and wrap a diaper (plastic side toward the wound) around your cinch to reduce friction and protect the area from further irritation.

Unstable Footing

Situation: Loose-shale footing in mountainous areas.

Avoid it: It takes a steady, seasoned rider and horse to navigate this kind of terrain, safely. Don't attempt it if you're a novice on a green horse. If your horse is quiet and familiar with the terrain, you shouldn't run into problems. On most well-traveled trails, the footing should be fairly secure. Up your safety odds by staying on the designated trail.

Beware: Some mountainous trails have steep areas with loose rock that can be tricky to cross.

Worst-case scenario: When you encounter loose footing, stay out of your horse's way. He might have to scramble up or down the path, but help him stay calm and encourage him to walk steadily. If your horse is emotional and runs through touchy situations, check and release him to keep him under control. Then let him have his head for balance. Don't get off and attempt to lead him down a trail with loose footing. You could be injured if he loses his balance and slides into you.

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



Photo by Cindy Miller

BCH Officers 2024

SECRETARY: PATTI CARMICHAEL

TREASURER: KEN CARMICHAEL

STATE DIRECTOR: KEN CARMICHAEL

The 2024 Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor; Linda White and Patty Wright, Members At Large.