



PONDEROSA

Back Country Horsemen of
Washington

"Educate, Advocate, and Move Dirt!"

Website: PBCHW.COM



November/December 2024

The eagles have arrived for
the winter kokanee salmon
run in Coeur d'Alene.



PBCH CALENDAR

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

December 7, 1pm, Christmas Party
Member Meeting @ Linda White's

December 15, Riverside Equestrian
Area Proposed Closure date (may
depend on weather)

January 7, Member Meeting at
Airway Heights Library (also Zoom)

February 4, Member Meeting

March 4, Member Meeting

March 14-16, 2025-BCHW
Rendezvous in Ellensburg.

March 29, Spokane County 4H Tack
Swap

Notes from PBCH Membership and Board Meetings:

Welcome to our new or continuing officers:

- Patty Wright, President, and Alternate Director.
- Linda White, Treasurer.
- Melissa Halpin, Secretary.
- Ken Carmichael, Director.

Also, the officers voted to include Michelle Eames (Newsletter Editor), and Patti Carmichael (Member at Large) on the PBCH Executive Board.

In our recent meeting, we had the following updates or decisions:

- The BCHW Rendezvous will be held in Ellensburg from March 14-16, 2025. Ponderosa BCH has purchased a table for 8 for the Saturday night dinner and auction; plan to attend!
- Riverside Equestrian Area is expected to be closed December 15, if not earlier due to weather.
- Craig Volosing is working with Spokane Parks to develop a celebration and dedication of the land acquisitions and parking lot for Rimrock to Riverside and Palisades Park, likely next spring. More to come on that.
- Linda White will be hosting our PBCH meeting/Holiday party on December 7 at 1 pm.
- Linda White will be the chair for our Poker Ride event, on June 22, 2025. Save the date.
- Please renew your BCH memberships by end of calendar year.
- The January 7 Member Meeting will be held at the Airway Heights Library (also on Zoom). The room will open at 6 pm, and the member meeting starts at 6:15. A Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.



**Ponderosa Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen
Holiday Celebration**

Saturday, December 7th, 1 p.m.

Home of Linda White

4004 W Jensen Rd, Cheney, WA

Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange

2025 PONDEROSA BCH Planning Calendar (as of 11/24/24)

All dates subject to change; watch emails and Facebook.

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

<p>November 2024</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	<p>December 2024</p> <p>December 7, 1pm, Christmas Party Member Meeting @ Linda White's</p> <p>December 15, Riverside Equestrian Area Proposed Closure date (may depend on weather)</p>
<p>January 2025</p> <p>January 7 Member Meeting at Airway Heights Library (also Zoom)</p> <p>January 16, 2025- Membership renewal deadline</p> <p>January 22 Newsletter articles due for Jan/Feb Newsletter</p>	<p>February</p> <p>February 4 Member Meeting</p>

<p>March</p> <p>March 4 Member Meeting</p> <p>March 19 Newsletter articles due for Mar/Apr Newsletter</p> <p>March 14-16, 2025-BCHW Rendezvous in Ellensburg.</p> <p>March 29 Spokane County 4H Tack Swap</p>	<p>April</p> <p>April 1 Member Meeting</p>
<p>May</p> <p>May 6 Member Meeting</p> <p>May 21 Newsletter articles due for May/Jun Newsletter</p>	<p>June</p> <p>June 3 Member Meeting</p> <p>June 22: Tentative Poker Ride Fundraiser.</p>
<p>July</p> <p>July 1 Member Meeting</p> <p>July 23 Newsletter articles due for Jul/Aug newsletter</p>	<p>August</p> <p>August 5 Member Meeting</p>
<p>September</p> <p>September 2 Member Meeting</p> <p>September 24 Newsletter articles due for Sept/Oct Newsletter</p>	<p>October</p> <p>October 7 Member Meeting</p>
<p>November</p> <p>November 4 Member Meeting</p> <p>November 21 Newsletter articles due for Nov Dec newsletter</p>	<p>December 2025</p> <p>December 2 Member Meeting</p>

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

BCHW Director Report

By Ken Carmichael

We have not conducted a BCHW Board Meeting since the last newsletter. The next meeting is scheduled for March during BCHW Rendezvous.

BCHW Calendars – These are beautiful large wall calendars that are a fundraiser for BCHW. PBCH has three left for \$12.00 each. First come first served. Just let me know. Great Christmas presents, easy to wrap, do not need to know their size or pick a color.

Winery Ride – This was held October 26 at Zillah WA. Patti Carmichael, Patty Wright and I volunteered at the event. They hosted at a winery, and I managed the transportation of over 2000 bottles of wine from the wineries to the base camp. Very successful, good weather and lots of fun. PBCH shares in the profits because of the three of us volunteering.

Trailhead News – Note that the THN is out electronically and is available on the BCHW website at www.bchw.org. Just click on the picture of the cover. It is the winner of the costume contest at winery ride. Read this to learn more about BCH.

BCHW Rendezvous – Ellensburg WA March 14-16. Educational speakers, vendors, displays, contests, annual meeting, awards, banquet, raffles, auction, meet people and have fun. Camp on site or obtain local accommodations. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Schedules of events will come out as we get closer. Item of note – PBCH has purchased a table at the banquet for PBCH members. You still need to purchase your dinner reservation when that becomes available online.

Best Business Practices Ad Hoc Committee – I have been chairing a committee to review BCHW business practices. We have provided a report to the President and expect further actions on our recommendations. It has been interesting and fun to review all aspects of BCHW. I look forward to helping with the changes.

Membership Education – BCHW leadership is reviewing what membership education should be provided, where and how, in 2025. This is important to the success of BCH. If you have any ideas, please contact me.

Legislative – If you just came out of your cave, I will tell you that we had local, state and national elections. These can have an effect on our trails. Already the Forest Service is feeling a pinch on funding. At the state level the 5th Legislative District has a new representative since Cathy McMorris Rodgers retired. It is Michael Baumgartner. If you have any influence, please step forward and remember that we should encourage Representative Baumgartner to support trails.

Riverside State Park – The new Volunteer Coordinator Rianna Bidon is scheduling many work parties in Riverside and Mt Spokane State Parks. Last Saturday I participated in trail building on the Trautman Property north of Carlson Rd. This is great riding and connects to other areas of the park including being part of the Trail 25. These work parties provide an opportunity to show up with gloves on with no organizational responsibilities. Please plan on showing the BCH colors and appreciation by participating.

Membership - 2025 membership renewal runs from October 1 to January 15. The easiest way is to go on the BCHW website www.bchw.org and do it electronically. You can also print an application there or ask me and I will send you a copy you can print and mail in.

Participation – Membership counts but participation counts even more. We are a service organization and need participants to contribute to our mission statement. Ask yourself what you want from BCH and how you are going to contribute to that goal. Then contact PBCH President Patty Wright and tell her what you want to

do. Or just ask her what needs to be done that fits within your skills, interests, talents, abilities and within your time commitment. You may find that you benefit from it.

Whenever you have comments or questions about BCHW please contact me.

Editor's note: Below are the winners of the Wine Ride Costume Contest. See more photos here: https://pbase.com/bchw/2024_bchw_winery_ride.



Why BCH

By Ken Carmichael

Why do we have BCH? To preserve and enhance the rights of responsible horsemen to use horses and mules on public land. As an organization we are much more effective than as individuals.

Who benefits? **You do**, all equestrians that ride the trails, all recreationists that use the trails, the community, and the environment.

BCH is divided into three levels, national, state and chapter. Each has a purpose and plays an important role in keeping trails open. Between the three we educate, advocate, and build and maintain trails and trailheads.

Is there a need? Yes. Public land managers do not have the budget, manpower or priority to do what is needed. They depend on volunteers. It is not just the work that needs to be done today or tomorrow. We must think long term. We must be at the table when the decisions are made about the future.

How do we volunteer? It takes a great deal of work to support the people doing the education, advocacy, and trail work. It takes people with all different skills, talents, abilities, interests, and time commitment. There is a place for everyone.

Final question. What will you do in 2025 to help keep trails open? Ask the chapter president what needs to be done. The time spent is well worth it and it is FUN.



Recent Work Party Pictures:

New hitching rails at the bathroom at Riverside State Park. Thanks to Construction Team members: Chuck Rice, Ken Carmichael, Bob Brannan, Doug Frederick and Park Ranger Moose Hemple. Sig Brannan and Karen Rice assisting. 😊



We also had a work party to add additional corrals in the Equestrian Campground at Riverside State Park. Most sites now have two corrals, rather than one. One of our members, Cindy Miller, tested out the improved campground late in the season.



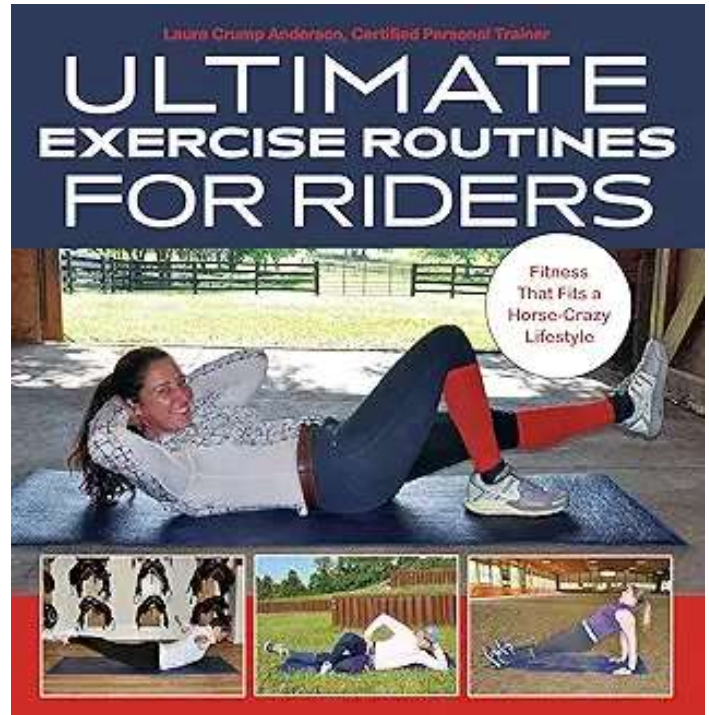
Newsletter Theme: Winter Riding

Note from Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor:

I think my winter riding will be winter groundwork, and also general exercise on my part. I'm working on Vali to be more focused on me, and I'm working on me to be more fit and strong. Groundwork with horses can be done in most weather, as long as I'm not shivering. I might be digging into some of the books in our PBCH library, we have some by John Lyons and Parelli. If others have favorite training books or philosophies, send them my way! I'll put them in our next newsletter.

For me, I've been using this book: Ultimate Exercise Routines for Riders, by Laura Crump Anderson. It mixes stretches with core exercises. I do note it would be a lot more effective if I did the exercises more consistently. I will also note that exercising after time off gives me great empathy for what our horses must feel like when we start them back up riding after a winter off.

Enjoy the following articles written by our members below!



Brrr! Baby it's cold outside...

By Patty Wright

Cold weather riding isn't generally my favorite, but I've had some spectacular and memorable gallops across open fields sparkling with fresh snow, and made discoveries you wouldn't in any other conditions, like the wing prints made by a raptor diving for an unlucky rodent!

My secret weapon is this pair of boots. They are paddock boots made for the winter by Mountain Horse. There's room for comfy warm socks and toe warmers, and I don't think I've ever had cold feet when I'm wearing them. I've had them for years. Yes, they're dirty, but they have never ripped, torn or leaked. Nothing worse than cold, WET feet!



That being said, I think the warmest way to ride in the winter is bareback, but I'm too old and decrepit to risk that now, so I'll stick to my warm layers and trusty boots!

Horses and Winter

By Ken Carmichael

To start with I am mostly a fair-weather rider. I know that if you wear enough wool, leather, plastic and rubber, you can ride through just about anything. On the other hand I can ride when I want in good weather.

A little wet weather is okay but I draw the line with ICE. I have fallen with a horse on that and believe me when I say I do not bounce well.

As I ride in this colder weather my main concern is to not overheat the horse. I do everything possible to keep him from sweating. What little sweat has occurred I have managed with a hair dryer and towel.

As for the horse keep, they are pasture horses and do not live in stalls. The barn has three 12X12 open stalls where they come in to eat and can come and go as they wish. It is located as to block the prevailing wind. I let their hair grow for some natural protection. They get plenty of good quality hay and fresh water. I check the water daily to ensure that the heaters are working properly. They only get blankets if it gets really cold.

Shoes are pulled as soon as it starts to snow because they come in the barn on a hard surface and snow can build up with the shoes on.

I normally see them four times a day. On top of that I like to go out periodically to brush them and keep them interested in coming to me.

As for the winter months it is time to clean and check all the saddles and other gear so that it is ready in the spring. My countdown is to March 1, 2025.



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 2025

PRESIDENT: Patty Wright

SECRETARY: Melissa Halpin

TREASURER: Linda White

STATE DIRECTOR: Ken Carmichael

ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: Patty Wright

The 2024 Executive Board for PBCH includes the officers, plus Michelle Eames, Newsletter Editor; and Patty Carmichael, Member At Large.