

The Trailhead News

Vol. 49 Issue 3

Back Country Horsemen of Washington

May/June 2024



www.bchw.org

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Cover Photos (front & back): BCHW Rendezvous 2024. Photos by Jim Thode

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December 1	Jan/Feb
January 18.....	Mar/April
April 1	May/June
June 1	July/Aug
August 1	Sept/Oct
October 1	Nov/Dec

Advertising Information Call: 360.754.4543

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Back Country Horsemen of Washington expresses its gratitude to those who contribute to BCHW as "Lifetime," "Contributing," "Sustaining," and "Patron" members.

The Optional Membership Program is available to all members for renewal or new membership. Members in this program pay only the optional membership fee, which includes the Family or Single Membership. The optional membership information on this page is provided by the BCHW Membership Committee. **If you have any corrections or questions, please e-mail membership@bchw.org.**

Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter	Name	Chapter
Lifetime Members					
Mitch Baird	IND	Ron & Marty Celestres	TAH	Kathy & Bob Jones	TDC
Scott Bauer	CHC	Danny & Jeanie Chappel	RRR	Laurie Kallsen-George	PNC
Amanda Biles	TAH	Christina Cline	MVC	Burton & Caity Karapostoles	MVC
Penelope Booker	IND	Leslie Coey & Curt Fuller	IND	Tony & Cathy Karniss	LCC
Karen Briskey	PCC	Gary & Kathy Collins	MSH	Leah & Franz Keylard	TAH
Caleb Canby	MVC	Greg Cox	GHC	Bob & Nancy Lee	EVC
Janis Collett	PCC	Patrick Dolan	MSH	Kris Lenke & Dave Peterson	BHR
Missy Day	TAH	Sherrie Elliott	NEC	Ed & Teri Letcher	WEN
David Jackson	PSR	Bruce & Kathy Foreman	NEC	Michele McGehee	GHC
Lori Lennox	GHC	Robert Gish & Gloria Dennison	NEC	Kathy McGehee-Hansen	NSC
Kim Merrick	NSC	KEVIN & Lisa Graese	NEC	Bob & Rani Merz	MAC
Heather Moorman	PSR	Karl Kaiyala & Kathy Rafferty	MVC	Kris Moran	GHC
Jason Ridlon	IND	Mary Kane	TAH	Jeanette & John O'Keefe	MVC
Kathy Russo	IND	Lorraine Karmen	CHC	Kathleen Parshall	TAH
Dave Seibel	MOC	Bill Kehner	IND	Leonard & Kathy Rolph	MAC
Bob Shonka	IND	Mike & Chris McGlenn	WCC	Laurel Saville	WCC
Teri Starke	IND	Mary McIntyre-Lee	IND	Brian & Cindi Vance	NEC
Cathy Upper	MVC	Paul Mellick	RRR	Larry Wachtel	IND
Barbara Woo	CHC	James Miller	IND	Bob & Lyris Wooldridge	MAC
Pat Wyers	MAC	Mary & Dennis Owens	GHC		
2024 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Jan Whitlow	MOC	Frank & Sandra Servine	NIS		
2023 Annual Meeting Head Table					
Kinney/Churchill	TDC	Heather Spencer	MOC		
2024 Patron Level					
Kathy & Bob Cole	MSH	Lynda Stafford	SCR		
Jonathan Hamlin & Adriana Scott	PNC	Michael Torok	MVC		
William Hamlin & Anne Razzolini	RRR	Darrell & Kristy Wallace	NEC		
Greg Johnston & Catherine Johnson	GHC	Louise & Peter Walton	NEC		
Cindy & Dean Kobetich	BHR	Nancy Wiest	PCC		
Dale & Tina Merten	GHC	JoAnn Yost	GHC		
Bob Showalter	RRR	2024 Contributing Level			
Brenda Wiebe	MAC	Earl & Dorothy Aalseth	CHC		
Todd & Janet Wiebke	IND	Jim & Terri Anderson	MSH		
2024 Sustaining Level					
Gene Brent	TAH	Meg Brinton & Nick Lowe	MSH		
Sherry & Alex Brown	LCC	Jan & Jim Craghead	CCR		
		Ken & Pam Evans	MAC		
		Carol Finney	MSH		
		Peg Greiwe & Dale Kelley	PCC		
		Kris & Don Hand	PSR		
		Judith & Bob Hoyle	BHR		



Tax Deduction

Please be informed that membership dues, paid at the state as well as the chapter level, are tax deductible for the calendar year and subsequent years. Deduct your dues as a charitable contribution under authority of IRC Section 170 (assuming the person paying the membership dues itemizes their deductions when computing their federal net taxable income) or as a business deduction under authority of IRC Section 162 (assuming the person paying the membership dues has a "trade or business" and the payment of the membership dues is directly related to this "trade or business"). When making a donation, ask for a receipt.

Your volunteer mileage is also deductible. Make copies of your volunteer hours logs with mileage for your taxes. ↻

A Gift To Honor or In Remembrance

Donate in memory of a friend, family, or loved one. To make a donation in their name to BCHW, please contact Teri Starke, BCHW Treasurer, at: 253.709.5052 or tstrk21@msn.com.



President's Corner



Volunteer Hours!

By Dana Chambers, BCHW President

Some of you may not know the importance of turning in your volunteer hours so here are some of the reasons!

Volunteer Hours are Important.

- Volunteerism is one of the most important activities Back Country Horsemen (BCH) can use to support our effort and mission of perpetuating enjoyable common-sense stock use in the backcountry. It helps keep trails open for all types of users – hikers, bikers, and, of course, equines. It shows us as a good neighbor with the community, youth, and other user groups by ensuring that public lands remain open to recreational use.
- Volunteering is our clout. Legislators and land managers know that our volunteer hours are an asset and gives credibility to BCHW during discussions with them. Volunteers perform work that would not otherwise get done when government funding is cut.



- Volunteering and recording those volunteer hours with your chapters and with the state gives BCHW Chapters an opportunity to participate in grant programs that can augment government funding cuts. Grants require “match,” which can be cash or donated labor, materials

BCHW Mission Statement

BCHW is affiliated with Back Country Horsemen of America (hereinafter “BCHA”) and therefore adopts the BCHA mission statement as follows: The mission of this organization shall be:

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America’s back country and wilderness.
- To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters in the state organization.

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Volunteer Hours

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and equipment used to implement grant-funded projects. Most grants require at least a 1:1 match, which means that for every \$1 of grant funding we receive, we must also donate \$1 of “match.” No volunteers = no grants! Your work party hours have the potential to be used as a match!

- Volunteering has a positive effect when talking with our partners. It shows that as a user group we take responsibility for keeping our public lands in good condition for future generations. It helps overcome negative opinions about sharing trails and enhances our image as stock riders on trails.
- Volunteering gives a sense of pride, brings a positive attitude to the chapter, and promotes teamwork by planning, building, and maintaining trails and trailheads.
- Volunteerism and Education is a big part of our organization from Leave No Trace classes, Saw Certification instruction, First Aid training and other equine-related programs.
- Without volunteers, trail workers and staff people alike, our organization wouldn't be what it is now.

Why Volunteer Hours Are Important

The Volunteer Hours and corresponding dollar amounts to those hours are reported on the annual IRS tax return, called the “990.” The dollar amounts put a value on our many hours spent each year working on BCHW’s mission statement. The importance of capturing ALL the Volunteer Hours that BCHW volunteers put in a year is to prove to the IRS we are a:

1. Bonafide non-profit.
2. Quite a few of the larger donors will look at the 990 to see how much time volunteers are devoting towards this non-profits mission.
3. Accurately reporting Volunteer Hours can also make going after larger NGO (non-government organization) grants much easier.

So, as President of BCHW, I am asking that we all log our volunteer hours and turn them into your chapter VH Chair or to the state!

If you have questions about volunteer hours, check with your chapter. If you want to find out if your work parties are in areas where we have grant support, then please email Jen Bond at bchwgranhelp@bchw.org. 🐾

Content Deadline for the July/August 2024 Online Newsletter is June 1, 2024

Cover Photos can be sent anytime, 8x10 Vertical orientation is best (300 dpi).

You can send articles, photos and calendar of events early!

Please email your articles (700 word maximum) and 3 or 4 photos with caption and photo byline to thn@bchw.org as soon as possible.

ATTENTION!

Volunteering

By Ken Carmichael, BCHW Membership Development

We spend a lot of time and energy discussing and planning who will be Back Country Horsemen's next leaders. This is how we will sustain Back Country Horsemen.

What role do the "experienced" volunteers play? I refrain from calling us "old." As time progresses, we are ready to move on to other projects and positions of leadership or move out. However, we must continue to play an important role in managing BCH.

What part can experienced volunteers play in BCH? We can:

- **Set the example** – New members need to see members having fun, being productive and being appreciated when we provide leadership.
- **Mentor** – Many members will participate if they feel comfortable and confident in performing the task. Mentors can encourage members and ensure the new members are kept from blowing in the wind. This includes following up with the new members, providing the necessary information and encouraging them.
- **Succession plan** – We can look for an individual who has the potential to take our position.
- **Ask people to participate** – I recently read a good article about volunteering. I will quote only one sentence. "The most commonly cited reason why people volunteer, period, is because people ask them to volunteer. Otherwise, people will stand in the shadows until asked." 🐾



PHOTO BY JIM THODE

Donations

By Teri Stark, BCHW Treasurer

I hope to give members who donate and want to donate to BCHW some helpful guidance regarding how to get your donation to the program you want to support specifically. THANK YOU for all the great donations, and rest assured we are putting your donations to work for trail maintenance, advocacy, and education throughout Washington State. We receive several donations monthly, either online or through BCHW's post office mailbox; in a few cases, there is little direction as to where you want your hard-earned money to support.

For mail-in donations, please put where you want your funds to go in the memo section or include a note. For online donations, there is a comment box. Please put as much information in the comments box as needed to make it clear where you want your donation to go.

Remember, I'm just a phone call away at 253-709-5052. If you have any questions or need further clarification, don't hesitate to reach out. I strive to answer each call promptly or return your message as soon as possible, ensuring you feel supported throughout your donation process. 🐾



Please clip out and mail



Permanent or Temporary Address Change Form

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

New Address: _____

Temporary Address for Snow Birds: _____

Start date: _____ Return Date: _____

Mail to: Dana Chambers, State Membership Chair, 11404 210th Ave Ct E, Bonney Lake, WA 98391
Email to: membership.bchw@gmail.com

Congratulations to the 2023 BCHW Awards Recipients

By Sue Sundahl, BCHW Awards Chair

Awards 2023, that's a wrap! Thank you to all the volunteers within BCHW. Hosting the Award presentation is always a pleasure, and this year was great. It only takes a little time to submit a nomination for awards. Please

remember to jot down your memorable volunteers throughout the year and see that they are recognized for their hard work within our organization. Congratulations to all this year's recipients. 🐾

President's Awards



Diane and Greg McCuin, Pierce and Ellensburg Chapters
Barb Talbot and Bill Kehner, Pierce County Chapter

Trail Warrior Award



Bruce Foreman, Northeast Chapter

ALL PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

Backbone Award



Gary Westergard, Purple Sage Riders



Beth Branshaw, Grays Harbor Chapter

Lopper Award



Kris Lenke, Buckhorn Range Chapter

Lifetime Achievement Awards



Tony Karniss , Lewis County Chapter



Barbara Vache', Cascade Chapter



Tracy and Wayne Koch,
Oakland Bay Chapter



Steven McKinney and Cher Bower



Mary Kane, Tahoma Chapter

ALL PHOTOS BY JIM THODE

Desk Jockey Awards



Jen Bond, Grant Administrator



Tim VanBeek, Grant Specialist



Carol Klar, Ponderosa Chapter



Wendy Potkonjak
Oakland Bay Chapter

Rendezvous 2024 and Looking Forward to 2025



By Teri Starke, Rendezvous Organizer

I always wake up at a ridiculously early hour on the last day of Rendezvous, and 2024 was no exception. I was up by 3 a.m. Sunday, drinking coffee and trying to think of a logo and slogan for the 2025 Rendezvous. I have not come up with anything yet, so please give me a call if you think of something catchy.

The 2024 BCHW Rendezvous was fabulous! There was no wind and plenty of sunshine. That just does not happen for five days in a row in Ellensburg during March!

As the overall event organizer, I want to express my gratitude to the many volunteers who make our chapter run and sponsor BCHW Rendezvous work every year. Your dedication and hard work are truly amazing! An event of this size cannot happen without the many event chairs and their crews doing their part. Rendezvous would not be the same without the Packing Competition and various packing training classes, BCHW Store,

parking, Auctions and Used Tack Sale, all were taken care of this year flawlessly. I also want to extend a special thank you to the donors to the auctions. The dollar value of the items donated to the auctions was well over \$18,000, and your contributions were not only put to good use but also greatly valued by the auction winners. I will have exact income/expense amounts at the June board of directors' meeting, but it looks like 2024 was a very successful Rendezvous.

The food was great all weekend - thank you, Cascade Mountain Grilling and their crew, for the concessions and the big Saturday night dinner; it was all spectacular. Next year's Saturday night dinner will be the same: Prime Rib, chicken, cheesy potatoes, salad and roll. We will publish the concession menu, hours,

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BCHW Membership Announcement

BCHW memberships expire on December 31, 2023. Please go to BCHW.org and click on the Membership tab to join or renew. If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me, Dana Chambers, at membership.bchw@gmail.com or call 206-498-6952. I'm here for you!

PRICING FOR OUR MEMBERSHIPS In Addition To Chapter Dues

Single	\$41.00
Family.....	\$54.00
Contributing	\$75.00
Sustaining	\$125.00
Patron	\$250.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Lifetime (Single)	\$1,200.00
Lifetime (Family of 2)	\$2,000.00

Rendezvous 2024 and Looking Forward to 2025

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place and cost on the Rendezvous website in 2025. We are trying to get a coffee truck for the mornings starting on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and maybe Sunday so that we can have coffee for sale earlier in the morning than this year.

This year, the new Ellensburg chapter sponsored the hospitality carts, with members of an Ellensburg equine 4-H kids manning them; all donations went to support their 4-H program. Another Ellensburg Equine 4-H group helped in the Used Tack sale and took the left-over tack items in support of their program. Linda Riley said their help watching doors allowed the Used Tack sale to occupy the small Armory rooms for Western Décor and clothing; they could not have expanded the sale without the 4-H kids. I am overwhelmed at all the work they put in, starting what, months before? I will also have the final numbers at the June board of directors' meeting, but I believe the Used Tack Sale did exceed the year before.

Your participation and contributions are what make BCHW Rendezvous a success. If you or your chapter have a class, demo or clinician you want to arrange and/or sponsor, get a hold of

me; and let's see if we can get it going for 2025. In other words, we need your help; I am sure there are so many ideas we could not think of that would do well at Rendezvous. Your ideas and involvement are crucial to the growth and success of our event.

BCHW has rented the entire Fairgrounds for 2025. Stall mats will be placed in stalls in the light and draft horse barn and throughout the cattle barn. With the new annex, we have so many options for venues that horses can be in. We also have rented the Western Village; it has several buildings that will hold more classes and demos for 2025.

I have my notebook half full of ideas for 2025 and several emails from BCHW folks offering to teach some classes. I am excited to take over the entire fairgrounds for that third weekend in March 2025!

Please contact me. I have an ambitious plan to have Rendezvous 2025 flyers in venues across the state very soon after the Winery Ride is over.

Teri Starke, Rendezvous Organizer, 253-709-5052. 🐾



The Coho Campground Saw Training



By Tony Karniss, Lewis County Chapter BCHW
Trail Crew Leader/ Saw Program

The Coho Campground Saw Training began in Brady, WA, on Jan. 20, 2024, for the Grays Harbor Chapter of BCHW. Eight students (six ladies and two men) spent eight hours in the classroom going over essential chainsaw safety training and saw maintenance.



After receiving permission from Brent Freeman, Recreation Shed Manager with the U.S. Forest Service, we held our field certification on Feb. 3, 2024, at the Coho Campground in Wynoochee, WA. All eight people returned to complete the field portion of the training to earn A, B, and C sawyer certification. Brent also provided permission to teach the A and B bucking certification and one falling C certification.

In talking with Brent, he mentioned that there were 146 “danger trees” he was trying to remove. He said the U.S. Forest Service was considering closing the campground if they could not get them fallen before Memorial Day. Tony talked to Aaron Pederson, Region 6 Saw Program Manager, about holding a chainsaw falling training for Collaborative B and C fallers between BCHW and WTA on Feb. 24, 2024. Aaron spoke to Brent, and permission was given to fall the dangerous trees. All 146 danger trees were taken down!

Brent expressed his appreciation for BCHW volunteers and the U.S. Forest Service’s collaborative efforts to remove the dangerous trees and provide a safe campground for their opening on Memorial Day. 🌲



FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event. • Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

Tack Sale Benefitting the BCHW Skagit Chapter

Saturday, May 11, 2024
 Sedro-Woolley Rodeo Grounds
 Join the Skagit Chapter for a Tack Sale on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The sale will be held at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo Grounds
 Text/call Linda at 360-421-0992.

LeBar Horse Camp/Lower S. Fork Skok trail Regional Work Party, Olympic National Forest

Friday-Sunday, May 17-19, 2024
 hosted by Buckhorn Range Chapter

Peninsula Chapter

Next Generation Packers - An Olympic Regional Packing

Clinic - Intro to Pleasure Packing
 Saturday & Sunday, June 22-23, 2024
 Sage Horse Camp
 514 Chicken Coop Road, Sequim, WA
 Location: Sage Horse Camp
 2514 Chicken Coop Road, Sequim, WA
 Hosted by: BCH Peninsula Chapter
 Instructor: Jay Adams, Pierce County Chapter BCHW
 Register online only

Family/Youth Trails Clinic

Saturday-Sunday, June 1-2, 2024
 Sage Horse Camp
 Sequim, WA
 Contact: Kim Merrick:
eloise55@gmail.com

2nd QTR BCHW Board of Directors' Meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2024
 Kittitas Valley Event Center
 901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA
 BCHW President Dana Chambers
president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

Packing Clinic

Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23, 2024
 Spring/Summer
 Sage Horse Camp
 Sequim, WA
 Contact: Theresa Percy:
teopercy@gmail.com

2024 Grays Harbor Fund Ride

Saturday, June 22, 2024
 Schafer Grade near Matlock, WA
 No permits needed. Limited camping avail.
 2 Loops option w/ raffle and grand prize. Lunch will be avail. for purchase. Lots of parking.
 Contact Beth Branshaw:
bbranshaw@hotmail.com

Ponderosa Chapter Backcountry Horsemen Poker Ride

Sunday, June 23, 2024
 Riverside State Park, Spokane, WA
 Poker Ride in Riverside State Park Equestrian Area, Spokane, WA, with onsite Raffle and Cash Prizes.

Prize Ride Benefitting the BCHW Skagit Chapter

Saturday, July 13, 2024
 Les Hilde Trailhead 6998 Medford Road
 Sedro-Woolley, WA
 Skagit Chapter for a Prize Ride on Saturday, July 13th, 2024! The ride will be held at the Les Hilde Trailhead in the Harry Osborne State Forest. erin.hurley2295@gmail.com

Northeast Chapter

8th Annual Vicki Gish Memorial Ride

Friday-Sunday, July 19-21, 2024
 Calispel Basin, Colville Nat'l Forest

Olympic Chapter

Western Dream Ride 2024

Friday, July 19, 2024
 Flying Horseshoe Ranch Cle Elum, WA
 Three-day prize ride in Cle Elum

Mount St Helens Chapter Annual Fun Ride

Saturday, July 20, 2024
 Kalama Horse Camp
 Annual Fun Ride fundraising campout and ride.

Pierce Co Chapter BCHW Annual Prize Ride

Saturday, July 20, 2024
 Sahara Creek CG Elbe State Forest Prize Ride

events continued on next page



*June 19: Juneteenth Nat. Ind. Day
 August 4: Anniversary - Great American Outdoors Act
 September 28: National Public Lands Day
 November 11: Veterans Day*



FREE Listing on BCHW Chapter Events Calendar

Be sure to: • Contact the ride host to check for updates on the event.

• Check to see if dogs are welcome.

Note: The BCHW Trailhead News represents as many events as possible; however, it makes no guarantees an event will be published. The calendar of events is subject to change. Please check with ride contact for most updated information. Please send calendar corrections to: thn@bchw.org.

Okanogan Valley Chapter

Funday Fundraiser/Swap Meet/LNT

Monday, July 22, 2024

Tonasket Rodeo Grounds

Vendors Wanted!

Please contact us if you would like to sell your new or gently used items at our fundraiser on 6-22-24, for \$20.00 a space

Cher:bowercheryl1@gmail.com • 509-826-5281

or Kassie:paisleypetal70@gmail.com

509-486-2451

Third Annual Olympic Spirit Prize Ride

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Sage Horse Camp

Sequim, WA

bchwpeninsulaprizeride@gmail.com

3rd QTR BCHW Board of

Directors' Meeting

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Kittitas Valley Event Center

901 E 7th Ave, Ellensburg, WA

BCHW President Dana Chambers

president@bchw.org • 206-498-6952

23rd Annual Winery Ride

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Zillah, WA

BCHWwineryride@gmail.com

Example

Your Chapter Ride or Event Must Be Open To All BCHW Members To Have A FREE Listing

Lines in the listing have a maximum character count of 32, including spaces. Please keep this in mind.

Please submit the following information with your event listing to thn@bchw.org.

Chapter Name _____

Name of Ride _____

Date _____

First Rider Out _____

Location _____

Register _____

Lunch _____

Name of Pass Required (if needed) _____

Weed-Seed-Free Feed Required _____

Camping (if available) _____

Cost to Member _____

Cost to Non-member _____

Contact Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____