



TRAIL TALK

Northeast Chapter January 2006

Mission Statement -- The purpose of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington is to perpetuate the legal and moral claim by the American people to use horses and mules for recreation on public lands.

January 21, 2006

Leadership Training and Informational Workshops

At Cle Elum High School 9:00am - 3:30pm

Submitted by Don Diemert

Training sessions are primarily for chapter leaders; they are also for all BCHW members that wish to get more informed on our organization and how to help make it more successful. After BCHW members learn the skills provided in these classes, they realize there is a place on our organization's team where they can help make a difference and enjoy participating. After BCHW members attend this informational workshop program, they will have expanded their "comfort zone" and gained the realization of the importance of being a member of this state organization. Our volunteer trainers have extensive skills covering the multitude of subjects used to move Backcountry Horsemen of Washington towards the lead in representing you and your right to continued use of stock for recreation on public lands. Join us and make a positive difference, while you have a good time too.

Interested?

Agenda:

8:30 - 9:00 Sign in. Refreshments in the commons.
9:15 Speaker - Regional Legislator (TBA)
10am Move into classes
11:45 Lunch (speaker during lunch)
12 Noon - Doug Southerland, Commissioner of Public Lands
1pm Back to classes
2:45pm Closing remarks

Class Subjects & Instructors:

Directors - Bob Shonka
Presidents/ Vice Pres. - Dave Jackson/Bob Brooke
Secretaries/Treasurers - Janelle Wilson/Sue Branch
Newsletter/Publicity - Jo Dasso/Don Diemert
Public Lands/Trail Maint. - Bob Gish/Tom Moran
Leave No Trace - Jane Byram/Bill Somes
Volunteer Hours - Traci Koch
Legislative - Judy Warnick
Website - Jim Thode

General Membership Meeting
January 14, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.
Williams Valley Grange
NEW LOCATION
SPECIAL DATE!!

January Presidents Message

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and that the incoming New Year is everything you want it to be. As incoming president of this awesome organization I'm looking forward to what the year has to offer.

I believe in BCH and have been a member for a long time. I love the people, their animals and what they do. I love the sight of a pack mule headed up a mountain trail. I'd like you to keep in mind that every action a member or group of members takes has a resultant impact on public perception. It's interesting how people can be influenced. We are all willful humans, with opinions on what is right, what is better and how things should be, and of course, how we as individuals think, feel, etc., is always right. It is human nature. This is where we as responsible adults need to take a step back and realize that as individuals we will not always agree on the same things.

We tend to forget sometimes that discussions can be healthy. It certainly is better to talk things over and listen to other viewpoints rather than closing up and taking your football home. I sincerely hope that all NE Chapter members will put aside any misunderstandings or personal conflict in pursuit of the bigger mission. It's good to see new people stepping up and taking positions on the board and putting new energy into the chapter.

I am always open to criticism, comments, suggestions, a lot of help, patience, and a good line of bull. If it's not fun you're not doing it right!

Steve

p.s. Hi Mom

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ADVERTISEMENTS

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WANTED: We are looking for a few good mature people, or a lot who like to camp and have horses. We would like to go camping at least once or twice a month in the good weather. We don't like to leave on a ride before 10 A, no long rides, just laid back and lots of good fun, sit around the campfire and tell bad jokes and tall tales. Lets get together. Call Susan Bates or Darryl Noyer at 509-238-2226

Weanlings, yearlings and 2-year-olds, geldings and fillies, Quarter Horses and Paints for sale at www.pelleyranch.com. Casey & Carol Heath, (406) 741-3939.

If you have anything to advertise send it to shonjohn2@earthlink.net or call 796-4950 by the 1st of each month. Advertisements are free. After three months I will take out the advertisement unless you notify me differently.

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www.parks.wa.gov WA State Parks

www.northernoutpost.com

www.spiritofhorse.com

www.northwestequestrian.com

www.bchw.org

www.nebchw.com

www.equine.wisecomp.com - BLM Mustangs at Burns

www.columbiabasinequinerescue.org

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Dutch Oven Cooking Now??

Just because it's winter doesn't mean we can't cook outside! Try this great recipe for a 12-inch Dutch oven.

□

Hanlon Meadows Pork Fantasy

- 3 lbs. pork diced in 1-inch cubes
- 1 large can of cream of mushroom soup
- 1 lb. of fresh mushrooms, halved
- 1 medium onion cut in chunks
- 3 carrots sliced in pieces
- 1 box (12 oz.) Stove top Stuffing
- 2 cups of water
- 2 T. olive oil

Pre-heat the Dutch oven and the oil. To the hot Dutch oven add the diced pork and brown on high heat until brown. Add the onion, carrots, stuffing, mushrooms and top with the soup. Bake for about 45 minutes with 8 coals on the bottom and 12 on the top. If you can smell it...it's probably done.

□*****

Is My Horse Drinking Enough Water?

One of the big questions and concerns trail riders have on extended trips, or all day rides, is whether their animals are consuming enough fluids. Sometimes young animals or those not used to drinking from streams and lakes are a little reluctant to take their fill and this can be a worry if the weather is warm and the animals are working and sweating.

- A 1,000 pound horse or mule consumes approximately 10 gallons of water a day.
- The equine stomach holds three to four gallons of water, which is as much as a very thirsty horse can drink at one time.
- This little tip can help to judge the amount your animal consumes when you can't measure it: It takes 48 swallows for a horse or mule to drink a gallon of water.



HORSESHOEING

JIM HUDKINS

276-8876

CELL: 954-7446

NEXT APPOINTMENT _____

JANUARY AND FERUARY GENERAL MEETING SPEAKERS

The January meeting is on the 14th- this Saturday. We will have a 6:30 desert social. The speaker will be Pete Nickerson from Aslin Finch. His presentation will be on animal nutrition and will also talk about the new store on highway 2.

The February meeting will be a potluck with Carol Z.'s daughter Kimberly demonstrating saddle cleaning for us.

Don't miss these meetings. Both speakers will have some valuable information that we can use as horse/mule people!

Newsletter Submission Information

Trail Talk is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 1st of each month. Non-copyrighted submissions are welcome, subject to space limitations. Opinions and views expressed in letters or personal articles are not necessarily the opinions of BCH or NEBCHW. The newsletter editor reserves the right to edit for content, space and language.

If you have a newsletter article or advertisement send it to shonjohn2@earthlink.net or call Cathy at 796-4950. No cost for an article or advertisement.

If you would like to advertise your business for one year in the newsletter or on the web page contact anyone on the Board for information.

If you're not getting your BCHW or BCHA Newsletters please contact Bob Gish at 276-6226.



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THE THREE LEGGED HORSE

By Monte Robertson

Several years ago our friend had a real hard time getting her old dead broke horse to load in the trailer. But with some effort the horse finally loaded after a lot of resistance. After driving a distance the owner for some reason, checked the horse and found that the floor had given away and the horse was dangling a foot down in the hole. We think that perhaps when the horse was reluctant to load it was trying to let the handler know the floor was rotted and unsafe. In this particular case the owner was lucky the animal didn't break a leg or grind it off on the pavement as they were going along.

During this slack season is a good time to remove your trailer mats and check the flooring for rot. To check take a knife blade and poke around on the floor. You will be able to tell immediately the difference between sound and rotted wood.

While you are at it you might as well continue your trailer inspection looking for loose nuts, bolts, rivets or metal panels that are loose or bent. Check also the welds for cracks and soundness.

When was the last time you had the wheel bearings greased? Or the brakes checked and adjusted while the wheels were off? The emergency break-away switch should be checked by pulling the rip cord. If the brakes don't lock up your auxiliary battery is probably dead. This battery can be removed and charged during winter storage.

Are the trailer lights dim? Or not working? Do all the lights kind of flash weakly when the signal is activated? Usually, this is caused by a bad ground that needs to be cleaned up. It could also be loose or corroded wire nuts. Maybe the plugs are simply dirty. Sometimes a shot of WD-40 will clean 'em up.

After you are safely rolling, keep in mind that traffic behind can be really impatient. That is especially true on 2 lane back roads. If they are held up very long they'll pass your vehicle taking risks that could cause your vehicle to be involved in an accident. To avoid giving these rude and inexperienced drivers a chance to make a bad pass you can help them out by pulling over and letting them pass safely. It is also best to keep enough distance between you and other horse outfits that vehicles can pass one outfit at a time and get back in line. If you pull off the road and let them pass a lot of them will toot their horn and wave, thanks. If you don't pull over and let 'em pass they'll probably blow their horn and give some other digital signal.

Reminder - it is time to renew your 2006 membership. Fill out the enclosed membership form and get it sent in!!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!



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Northeast Chapter BCHW 2006 Calendar Of Events



Date	Event	Details	Contact
January 14	General Meeting	Williams Valley Grange, 7:00 p.m.	Steve 935-7117
January 21	Leadership Training	Cle Elum, WA - This is very informative!	
February 7	Board Meeting	Deer Park Pizza Factory, 7:00 p.m.	Steve 935-7117
February 18	General Meeting	Williams Valley Grange, 7:00 p.m.	Steve 935-7117
March 7	Board Meeting	Deer Park Pizza Factory, 7:00 p.m.	Steve 935-7117
March 18	General Meeting	Williams Valley Grange, 7:00 p.m.	Steve 935-7117

NOTE: DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Characteristics of Good Leadership Qualities

Contributed by Reba Hendrix

Leadership is the most powerful force entrusted to men and women and combines several characteristics; perception and effectiveness to accomplish the organization's goals. A leader is one who can see the consequences of actions much further than can his or her peers. The effective leader will not only have the vision to perceive the future, but the wisdom and determination to affect it.

I'd like to share the following "Ten Characteristics of Natural Leaders" from "Small Business and Government Grants". As Chapter members, we are all leaders whether we serve on the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington Board, our Northeast Chapter Board, or volunteer to help in many other important ways. These following points are appropriate advice for all of us; we do make a difference in the future of Backcountry Horsemen.

Ten characteristics of natural leaders:

Leadership exists on a continuum from **managing self** to managing others to managing the organization. Natural leadership does not mean that you either have it or you don't. It does mean that you are willing to assess your style and behavior, and that you are willing to learn and grow.

- 1. The only person you can change is yourself.** Self-management comes **before** managing others or managing an organization. Understanding the impact of your behavior is crucial to leadership.
- 2. You must feel comfortable being in a leadership role.** Leadership calls for authenticity. If you are not comfortable with the role, others will sense it and withhold the full measure of whatever it is they have to contribute.
- 3. Being a natural leader involves being able to adjust your style to the skill level and commitment of others in any given situation.** Reading the people/task mix requires skill, flexibility and intuition.

4. Natural leaders develop other leaders. Leaders of today must share skills, insight and power to bring along others who have the potential to lead. This includes giving others the opportunity to lead. Someone once said that leadership is like manure. Left in a pile it starts to smell really bad and does no good. Spread around evenly it promotes growth and doesn't smell bad at all.

5. As a leader, you must make sure information flows freely in all directions. The culture must be such that withholding information to strengthen one's own power or for any reason is absolutely not tolerated.

6. Leaders have to be accessible. You have to create a culture in which people feel they can tell you the bad news as well as the good news. You cannot isolate yourself or let others isolate you.

7. Leadership in modern organizations means sometimes fading into the background . . . when it is natural to do so. You do not have to plan every tactic or lead every charge. Enlist good people who can articulate your vision as well as you can (maybe even better) and then let them do it.

8. Leaders need to provide support. Become a sponsor for someone else's idea or project. Make sure you provide the resources and structure others need to succeed.

9. Leaders must create a culture that encourages risk and tolerates mistakes. Intolerance and negativity squelches creativity, innovation and forward thinking necessary to organization survival.

10. Leadership skills can be developed. Natural does not mean born with. Leadership skills can be learned and this learning circles back to **self-management**.

To be a successful leader one must know how to choose good volunteers who can be effective with delegated responsibilities. Not recognizing this dependence on team members with different talents has caused many organizations to fail or reach a stalemate in growth because they have developed no foundation for success.



Proper Food Storage in the Great Outdoors

Submitted by Bill Hendrix

All of us at one time or another have had to concern ourselves with proper food storage while enjoying the great outdoors. Proper food storage is a must whether you're car camping at Priest Lake or packed 30 miles into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. There're rodents (small & large), raccoons, bears, and other critters that are not only a nuisance but also very dangerous. The obvious reason for proper food storage is to keep these guys out of your food but the other and much more important reason is to keep these wild animals "WILD". We don't want them to learn to associate us "Humans" with an easy meal.

I've done a lot of packing over the years and have always kept a clean camp. I've never had a problem except for the occasional camp mouse (although there was an incident with a couple of raccoons that I won't get into at this time). I've found fresh Grizzly tracks outside of my camp in the morning. They know I'm there, I know they're there, they're wild, my camp is clean, my food is properly stored, and they don't associate me with an easy meal. They don't want to mess with me and I certainly don't want to mess with them.

Last summer we had the opportunity to see what a "Humanized" Grizzly can do to a Forest Service line cabin. These cabins are one room structures with bunks, cook stoves, etc... that the Wilderness Rangers and trail crews use as needed. They also keep some food staples stored in the cabins. They go to great measures to

keep the bears out of the cabins. When nobody is there the heavy wooden front door is covered with a sheet of plywood that is covered with 16 penny nails with the points out from the door. There is a "Grizzly Bear" doormat, which is also a piece of plywood, covered with nails. The glass windows are covered with plywood; several strands of barbed wire are twisted together, crisscrossed several times across the window and secured to large steel eye bolts that are secured through the walls. That sounds like it would be pretty hard to penetrate, especially for a dumb old bear. Well these guys are smart and learn things fast.

We were packed into the Danaher Meadows in the Bob Marshall Wilderness for a week and had taken a day ride up to Basin Creek and stopped at the cabin for lunch. These cabins are interesting to check out even though you can't go in or even see through the windows. We found the eastside window had been broken into. There was wood and glass everywhere. The twisted strands of barbed wire had been pulled to make a hole to crawl in through and a couple of the eye bolts were bent and almost torn out of the wall. It was quiet inside so we figured it was safe to check it out. This was one big bruin. I'm 6 foot and had to stand on a 2 foot block just to pull myself up to the lower window ledge to get a peek at the inside of the cabin. There was plenty of hair on the barbed wire and the interior of the cabin was demolished, Cans and bottles of food and gear strewn everywhere. This guy apparently had done this before and knew what he was looking for. He took anything that had sugar or honey leaving the Pace Picante intact. We followed a trail of empty containers. There was Kool Aid, Gatorade, Tang, Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate, and honey. Fortunately he wasn't around or at least we couldn't see, hear, or smell him and the stock was relaxed. I could just imagine some big old Grizzly lying out there in the brush watching us. When we returned we made sure the camp was very clean and our food and anything that smelled was secured in our bear resistant boxes that night. I'm sure glad we were a few miles and a couple of mountains south of Basin Creek.

This incident really showed me the importance of a clean camp and proper food storage. This bear knew exactly what he was doing; he had probably done it before, and would probably do it again. He was "Humanized", no longer "Wild". Not only was he a nuisance he was also a danger to those in the area. He was now a problem bear and would probably be put down. We've all heard "a fed bear is a dead bear". There's a lot of truth to that statement. When we keep a clean camp and properly store our food we help keep these animals wild. As long as they remain wild and don't learn to associate us with food it's safer for us as well as them.

Proper food storage when you're car or trailhead camping is as easy as putting it in your car trunk or camper. We also use our horse trailer. When packing stock or backpacking there are several different bear resistant containers and panniers available. You can also hang your food in trees. It must be hung at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the tree. Try finding a limb stout enough to do that in lodge pole forest. I'd recommend investing in a bear resistant container.

While we don't have a large population of Grizzly bears in our region we do have a large population of Black bears, raccoons, rodents, and others that make it just as important to practice proper food storage. I don't want a bear in my camp and I find mice and ground squirrels to be a nuisance as well as very persistent. If you want to know about the "raccoon incident" ask me sometime and I'll tell you about it. It's actually a much more entertaining story but raccoons just don't get your attention like a Grizzly.

Keep It Wild, Bill

