



## TRAIL TALK Northeast Chapter August 2008

[www.nebchw.com](http://www.nebchw.com)

**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.

### PRESIDENTS CORNER: By Leon Sproule

Next general & board meeting will be August 9th @ the Pend Oreille County Park @ 1 pm. We will have a ride, potluck and meeting.

Be there to ride with the pony club and learn what they are up to.

### Off The Hoof



I am late writing this as my wife and I spent the weekend at the Art on the Green in Coeur d'Alene. She had a successful time selling her pottery and I enjoyed watching the thousands of people stream by. Spending time in a large event that is not oriented toward horses gives you a different perspective on

the world. The first thing you realize is that most people are not interested in horses, trails, back country, and working towards preserving the right to combine the three. The second thing you wonder is why do young pretty girls want a tattoo? Numerous examples were provided for perusal but I saw none that helped any one look any better.

The conclusion I reached is we are out numbered by those who have no interest in horses or trails so we need to be aware and vigilant about protecting our rights. Our rights are a part of our heritage as a citizen of the United States. Our rights are only any good if we use them and maintain them just like they were a trail through the woods. I am particularly interested in the political process this year because I think we need to get involved now if we want a future where we have the right to ride in the woods. I can not as president of BCH Northeast Chapter advocate any particular candidate or party but I can push you to get involved. Use the opportunities that are available to meet the candidates so that you can learn what they are interested in. What are the issues that are important to you? Ask the candidates about those issues and listen to what they say.

I recently helped to sponsor a political event in Elk. We had hoped for seventy-five people after running ads in the local papers and calling up about three hundred phone numbers. We had a band with live music and free food but only a few people came. Those people that did come had the opportunity to spend very personal time with the candidates who were there. The candidates talked directly to the questions that were asked and enjoyed the feedback from the audience.

Those that were not there had no opportunity to influence the candidates.

Politics is often regarded as a dirty word but everything that is accomplished as a society is the result of the political process. We make decisions a society by weighing the interests of the citizens. Sometimes the weighing is done by voting but day by day the decisions made by politicians, land managers, agency heads, and others is the result of hearings and public processes. To stay active in all of the political events and all of the public hearings would be difficult but pick those things you care about and get involved. If you don't get involved, the person who is there and involved will be the one who is listened to.

All of that said, we have a ride and combined meeting scheduled for August 9th at Pend Oreille County Park. Please come and participate, we will have a potluck and a meeting after the ride.

Thanks!  
Leon

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**Newsletter Submission Information**

Trail Talk is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 [trailtalknews@yahoo.com](mailto:trailtalknews@yahoo.com) or call Rachael at 935-8084. 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.*

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

Looking to share my horse with another rider. I would like to find another gal who likes to ride the trails but doesn't want to spend the large amount of money to keep a horse full time, to help me defray my costs. He is boarding in Chattaroy at Virginia and Leon Sproule's place and there are loads of trails in the area. He is a well-trained, 12-year old, tall, registered appendix with a willing, gentle personality. Must be experienced rider. Call for details and to talk. Lesa 535-2390

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Looking for advertisers for the newsletter and web page. If you would like to have your business listed please contact a Board member. The cost is \$30 per year for a business card size advertisement in the



In Clayton

(This is a House bill (HR 249) that passed the House last year and now sits in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources – the same committee where our Equine Heritage bill is hung up. While this article notes that Senator Tester of Montana is on the Committee, so is our own Senator Cantwell. She is highly influential on this committee and is the person we should write to have HR249 become considered.)

### **BLM moves to euthanize wild horses**

About the time you think it can't get any worse, it does. The outrageous and unthinkable is being proposed by BLM---killing our wild horses because they say there are too many on the range and in holding facilities!

BLM has indicated a need to euthanize wild horses because the care and feeding is costing them too much money. In other words they have decided that they will now start killing mustangs to balance their budget. This message was delivered on Monday, June 30, at a meeting of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting in Reno. Henri Bisson, deputy director of BLM recommended that wild horses be euthanized to alleviate what he wrongly characterizes as an over-population of horses on the range (approximately 32,000 according to BLM—this is an inflated number) and accurately states are 33,000 in holding facilities. Bisson stated that caring for so many animals has crippled the agency's budget.

Of course, BLM created the problem by removing some 70,000 wild horses from their homes in just the past five years! They have managed our mustangs to the very brink of extinction and now they want to kill off the few that remain.

How could this happen? Montana Senator Conrad Burns took the protection language out of the Wild Horse and Burro Act by slipping his stealth amendment into the Appropriations Bill in 2004. Euthanasia had been prohibited prior to this. Thankfully, Burns was defeated in 2006 by Jon Tester. Yet, the protections have not been reinstated into the Act and, ironically, Jon Tester now sits on the Committee that is blocking legislation which would put the protections for our mustangs back in the Act. (Click here to see members of Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Ask them to put the protections back in the Wild Horse and Burro Act to protect our mustangs from being killed by the BLM.)

What does this latest BLM move mean in real terms for our mustangs and specifically Cloud's herd? We really can't be sure as no details were

laid out at the meeting. Which horses do they plan to kill first? We don't know.

In the meantime, BLM in Billings has issued an Environment Assessment. This EA is separate and apart from the long range HMAP with comments due on July 11. This EA would allow for the removal of up to 38 Pryor wild horses beginning as early as July 25. (Click here to read the EA)

Targeted will be mostly young animals and I fully expect that BLM will remove a Cloud daughter and granddaughter, Rain and Arrow, if they can catch them in the bait traps. Perhaps even little Shadow, the September filly who survived in spite of a hard winter could be removed. Comments to the EA are due by July 25.

It is now even more critical that we speak up! Please call and write the BLM in Billings and the Senators in Montana urging them to leave the horses alone. They are safe on their range. Because of the BLM efforts to euthanize our mustangs, we don't know what might happen to them if they are removed. Please ask the Senators to work with BLM and the Custer National Forest supervisor on legally expanding the Pryor range to allow for a truly viable population that can live in peace in their rightful home.

Now is not the time to be timid. Make calls to the Senators in Montana, write or email the BLM in Billings, talk to your local newspaper and your Congressional representatives. Communicate with everyone you can think of to let them know what is happening. We WILL NOT let them kill our mustangs. Not now. Not ever!

Happy Trails!  
Ginger Kathrens

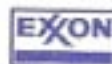
P.S. The Jon Tester toll free number may not work for everyone. Try calling these numbers instead:  
Senator Testor's office in Washington DC (202) 224-2644  
Senator Testor's office in Montana: Tracy Stone Manning in Missoula at (406) 726-3003  
or Bill Lombardi in Helena at (406) 449-5401

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I thought it was time to bring back the **Famous Cowboys and Cowgirls section.** -Rachael Hepler



### **Velma "Wild Horse Annie" Johnston**

Velma Johnston was a tireless pioneer in establishing legislation for the protection of wild horses and burros across the United States. Her efforts were instrumental in getting the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act passed through Congress which requires the protection, management, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands.

### **Charles Goodnight**

Charles Goodnight is credited with inventing the chuck wagon. In 1866 he and his partner, Oliver Loving, made preparations to take a herd of 2,000 longhorn cattle from near fort Belknap in northern Texas, to Denver. Goodnight purchased a government wagon and had it completely rebuilt according to his specifications in seasoned bois d'arc, the toughest wood available.

The distinguishing feature of the wagon was the sloping box on the rear with hinged lid that lowered to become a cook's worktable. The box was fitted to the width of the wagon and contained shelves and drawers for holding food and utensils. To the cowboys, "chuck"

was food, so the box was called a chuck box and the wagon became known as a chuck wagon.

Goodnight's early prototype of the chuck wagon was copied widely and changed little in the years to follow. Most chuck wagons had the same basic design. They were large, sturdy, four-wheeled wagons with bows across the top covered with waterproof sheets. There was usually a cowhide stretched beneath the wagon bed and fastened at the corners; it was used to carry wood or cow chips. In the front of some of the wagons was a jockey box, which was used for storing tools and heavier equipment needed on the trail.



"Horses stay the same from the day they are born until the day they die. They are only changed by the way people treat them."

--"Silent Tom" Smith, trainer of the famous Seabiscuit

### **Gooseneck vs Bumper Pull:**

There are many features to consider when choosing a horse trailer. One important feature is whether the horse trailer will have a gooseneck or bumper pull design.

### **Bumper Pull Horse Trailers - Advantages and Disadvantages**

There are five major advantages of bumper pull horse trailers. One, they usually cost less than a gooseneck trailer. Two, it's not necessary to use a pickup truck for hauling the trailer, and more people can haul this type of trailer with their current vehicle. Three, normal turns are often easier because the tag-along will follow the path of your tow vehicle. Four, you won't need as much storage space for the trailer as you would for a gooseneck trailer. Five, the trailer doesn't have to be classified as a "commercial" vehicle for licensing purposes because the weight of both the trailer and tow vehicle is usually less than 10,001 pounds.

There are several disadvantages as well. Bumper pull trailers do not offer as much room for the dressing/tack room. Some bumper pull trailers might not be sufficient for hauling more than two horses due to the type of hitch required for the weight of the trailer. Also, bumper pull trailers tend to fishtail on curvy roads, which can be dangerous and scary.

### **Gooseneck Horse Trailers - Advantages and Disadvantages**

The gooseneck trailer offers several benefits. One, it doesn't sway or fishtail like a bumper trailer tends to do, and towing is more stable. Two, it provides more room for living quarters, which can be convenient for camping and long trips. Three, the gooseneck is easier to back up to and align with the ball while hitching it to your hauling vehicle. You can see it clearly from the rear window. Four, the gooseneck design is more secure without worry of the load coming unhitched while traveling on the highway.

There are also a few disadvantages. Gooseneck trailers are more expensive and are usually bigger so they must be towed with a truck that is able to handle it. The hitching system is also more expensive for a gooseneck setup. While hitching the trailer, you must climb into the bed of the truck to complete the process. Also, you will have to remove your camper top (if you have one) from the truck to haul a gooseneck trailer.



### Trail Mix

#### Ingredients

- \* 1 box Goldfish® crackers (your favorite flavor)
- \* 1 box of Teddy Grahams® (your favorite flavor)
- \* 1 can mixed nuts
- \* 1 big bag M&M® candies
- \* 1 box raisins or Ocean Spray® Craisins®

Sweetened Dried Cranberries (your favorite flavor)

#### Instructions

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl with a big spoon. When mixed, use spoon to fill snack size baggies with trail mix. It usually makes about 12-15 bags. Keep in a cool dry place.



A tough old cowboy from south Texas counseled his grandson that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandsons did this religiously to the age of 103 when he died.

He left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great grandchildren, and a 15 foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

### Dental Staff Fed Up with Gas Prices -- Ride Horses to Work

Staff at a dentistry in Arlington, Washington have decided that they will ride horses to work after gas prices hit US\$4 a gallon. More than half the staff working at Dr. Keith Leonard's dental surgery own horses.

Leonard said: "We can't dictate how much oil companies charge, but today we're not buying. We're using one-horse power." 10 horse riders and two staff members on bike's met at Leonard's in the early morning hours for the commute.

(shortnews.com -06/27/2008-reporter: Lois Lane)



### 10%off coupon



### Murphy's Laws For Horse's and Horse Owners:

If you are shopping for a horse, the only one that meets your requirements will be located at least 7 states distance.

If you are selling a horse, it will go severely lame just as the buyer who always pays full price pulls into your driveway.

If you are on a carefully planned budget, there will be a severe drought and hay prices will triple.

There will be no breeders of your favorite breed within 8 hours driving distance. If you are shopping for Arabians, they will all get "Mad Arabian Disease" and die, but the Percheron population will explode.

You pay \$500 dollars for a saddle, try to sell it, but only get offered \$150.00 because your saddle is black and buyers want tan.

If you want a pony, no ponies are available anywhere in this Solar System. If you want a horse, thousands of ponies are listed For Sale.

Papers are never delivered as promised because previous owner burned them to annoy his ex.

Breed X is all the rage, your horses are breed Y.

Gray horses are all the rage, your horses are bay.

The better trained your horse goes, the messier the inside of your house gets.

As soon as you get on your horse on a windy day, the horrid children next door will decide to go shooting gophers with their pellet gun right near where you are located.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## Come Join Us!

To join BCHW, complete this application, sign the liability release (all members over 18), and enclose payment:

- **Chapter members**, turn application and payment in to your Chapter Treasurer. If paying by check, make out to your chapter.
- **Independent members**, make check out to "BCHW", and mail application and payment to: BCHW, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



## Member Info

New Member       Renewal – Membership number(s): Circle One: Email or Mail Newsletter

Adult's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative district (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

### State Membership

#### Basic Membership

- Single-State Dues \$36.00
- Family-State Dues \$49.00

**Optional Membership** (includes family or single from above)

- Contributing \$65.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Patron \$250.00
- Benefactor \$500.00

Additional State Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Subtotal* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Chapter Membership

Chapter Name (or Independent): \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Dues - NEBCHW \$10.00

Additional Chapter Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Subtotal* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Liability Release

ALL ADULT members MUST sign!

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident where ever horse use is involved, which can cause Injuries to horses, riders and spectators and also recognizing the fact that Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Inc., including Chapters, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience levels of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other BCHW events, I do hereby release and hold harmless the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children, or horses.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The information on this membership application will be shared with BCH of America, and if so designated by the applicant, the appropriate local chapter of BCHW. Otherwise, the information will not be divulged to any other person or organization without the express permission of the applicant.



NORTHEAST CHAPTER BCHW  
2008 Calendar Of Events



Date	Event	Details	Contact
Aug. 9	1 pm-Chapter Meeting-Board Meeting combined	Pend Oreille Park Ride, Cook out	Leon Sproule
Aug.22-24	Clayton Fair		
Sept 13-14	Kaniksu Cost Share work party - Shoe Tree		Bob Gish 276-6226
Sept 18	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange		Leon Sproule 509-238-6318
Sept 20-21	Kaniksu Cost Share work party-Shoe Tree		Bob Gish 276-6226
Oct. 4	Washington State Trail Conference- Spokane		Jeanne Koester 509-238-3267
Oct. 18	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange		Leon Sproule 509-238-6318
Oct.25	Wine Country Ride Purple Sage Riders		Vickie Gish 276-6226
Dec. 20	Christmas Party		

For a complete list of events please see the calendar on the webpage. [www.nebchw.com](http://www.nebchw.com)  
All dates, times and events are subject to change. Be sure to telephone the contact person prior to the scheduled event.

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