



TRAIL TALK Northeast Chapter May 2008

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

Off the Hoof

I started writing this a week ago but life intervened. I have too many things going on. It is spring and life's pace accelerates to match that of the flowers emerging from the ground. The fences need fixing, the garden needs tilled, and now I need to fix the water line to the back of the barn. I find it hard to take the time to enjoy the animals that I am doing this all for. The sun is shining. It is a blue sky day and I am too busy to stop and go for a ride.

We all get caught up in the affairs of life and find that we have more to do than we can get done in the time allotted. I would like to thank the ones among us that recognize the importance of the mission of BCH and show up at the meetings, and go on the rides, and help at the work parties. This is what makes this a great organization. We have people who care about trails and access into the back country enough that they take the time and effort to do what is necessary to prioritize BCH over all of the other things that can interfere. I wish I was one of them. As an example, I have three other things that have been scheduled for the 10th of May. This is the day of the chain saw certification. I want to go but can't. Fortunately, my certification is still good for another year. I will be able to help for the Memorial Day weekend work party at Priest Lake.

I apologize for missing the last meetings but I understand that Stu did a fine job and I thank him for his help. I will be there to help at the Ride the West but not nearly as much as Jim and Jeanne and Bob and others who really make this work. I guess my message is two fold this time. I am sincerely thanking those that make BCH such a great thing to be a part of, but I am also trying to exhort the rest of you, who are like me, to make an effort to put BCH closer to the top of your priority list. Take some of the burden off of the ones who have been carrying the heavy load for a while. That is why I accepted the challenge of being the president this year. I knew I needed to do more to contribute to BCH and I hope I am able to measure up to the opportunity. I am meeting new people and learning new things so that is good. I hope you all can find a way to be of more service as well.

However, ride when you can.

Leon

Next general meeting will be @ the Spokane Fairgrounds May 15th 6:30 pm.
Ride the West - set up trail class. Chapter meeting then dinner afterwards.

LIFE FLIGHT is now open to family and friends that are not NEBCHW members. (please include name, address and phone number) The annual cost will be \$5.50 per individual for 2008. For those that have purchased Life Flight, I have received key tags and window stickers. I also have the membership cards and Big R cards for everyone that paid their 2008 dues. I will have these available to pass out at the chapter meeting. If you wish to participate, **please do not combine your payment** with your regular NEBCHW membership.

You will need to send a separate check with the name, address, and phone number for each membership. Mail checks to:

NEBCHW
% Judy Clark, Treasurer
19402 N Yale Rd
Colbert, WA 99005



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--Rallie McAllister, M.D., Riding for Life

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NEXT APPOINTMENT _____

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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 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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Reminder: Aslin Finch Feed Stores gives BCH members 10% off on any purchase of items not on sale. Lets support them since they support us.

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 newsletter and on the web page.



In Clayton

The Unwanted Horse Issue:

The American Horse Council and the United States Department of Agriculture are co-sponsoring a forum on The Unwanted Horse Issue: What Now? The all-day forum will be held on Wednesday, June 18th, 2008 at the Department's Jefferson Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

The forum will piggy-back onto the AHC's 2008 National Issues Forum, which will be from June 16 through the 18th in Washington. The Unwanted Horse Forum is open to all. By holding it immediately after the AHC meeting, those who attend the AHC meeting will have the opportunity to also attend the Unwanted Horse Forum.

There is little data about the size of the problem, the numbers of unwanted horses, the ability of the current system to care for them, whether there is an increase in neglect and similar issues. This forum will be an opportunity to focus on the many factors that surround the problem of the unwanted horse and bring some clarity to the extent of the problem.

Various newspapers and other media have recently reported that state agencies and horse rescue groups are seeing a growing number of horses that can no longer be cared for by owners. Some of the reports suggest that rescue groups are being overwhelmed and may have to start turning horses away. The media reports suggest numerous factors for the increase, including overbreeding; the downturn in the economy; sharply rising costs of hay; the drought that has affected many parts of the U.S.; the costs of euthanasia and carcass disposal; and the closing of the nation's three slaughter facilities.

Whatever the causes, and they probably include all of these factors, this is not an optimistic forecast and reinforces the need for the horse industry and others to proactively address the unwanted horse issue. The one-day educational forum is free and open to all. It will focus on the current situation and the next steps that might be taken. Invited speakers will discuss the knowns and unknowns of the unwanted horse issue at this time, as well as possible solutions and options to deal with the problem and decrease the number of unwanted horses in the country. The forum will cover a variety of topics including historical, ethical and general perspectives on the unwanted horse issue, the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, transportation issues, and potential solutions and options.

For more information on this Unwanted Horse Issues Forum, please visit the AHC website, www.horsecouncil.org. To register, send your name, affiliation and email address to Marsha Stephens Hurd, 800 9th St. SW, Room 3150 Waterfront Centre, Washington, DC 20250-2220; telephone: 202.401.5352; fax: 202.401.6156; or email either mhurd@csrees.usda.gov or reynnells@csrees.usda.gov.

State Reports:

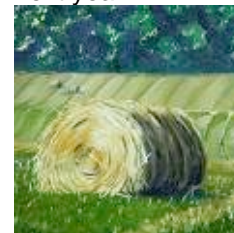
IDAHO---Not much hay is available in Idaho, reports Glenn Shewmaker, University of Idaho extension forage specialist. "There isn't going to be much carryover, and certainly nothing of quality," he says. "It is still winter in the uplands, and snow is still on the ground in some areas. Producers will still be feeding hay for two weeks to one month. We have had cooler-than-normal temperatures and alfalfa is at least 10 days to two weeks behind schedule. It's the same story with the grass on the range." Shewmaker says there has been plenty of moisture this winter, which should help hay growers recover from last summer's dry conditions. Snow pack has been normal to slightly above normal and snow depths have been good. There has been some ice sheeting in parts of the state, which may have damaged stands.

The cool-weather delay may have implications all summer. "I'm looking for the first cutting to be below normal in yield and maturity. Cutting before the alfalfa or grass has built up non-structural carbohydrate reserves might be a problem. We could lose 5-10% of our yield all year as a result." The first cutting usually occurs between May 1 and 16

in lower-elevation areas of the state. "The first crop for dairy hay is typically fed green-chopped or put in a bag because we have to put hay up by Memorial Day due to our weather," Shewmaker says.

Fertilizer prices are a big concern among the state's hay growers. Shewmaker is urging them to fine-tune fertility management. He says growers should try to have phosphates at good levels before planting, and that soil tests are especially valuable when making fertilizer decisions. "High fertilizer prices make manure and use of legumes in the rotation more valuable than ever."

He expects some Idaho hay acres have been lost to wheat and barley this year. In the meantime, hay demand continues to grow due to a strong export market, and still more dairies are coming on line. Dairy owners are buying land to make sure they have sources of feed and forage. Shewmaker expects hay demand to stay strong into the next year.



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From BCHW Parliamentarian Bob Brooke in answer to one of Jeanne's questions:

It would be my hope that members of each chapter are politically involved AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS.

This country needs informed and engaged voters far more that it needs trails. At my last reading of the constitution there was a section in there let me think now – what was that number, o yes number one (1). FREEDOM OF SPEECH (PARTICULARLY POLITICAL SPEECH). To be number one it must have had a special place in the minds of the founders. This applies to all citizens. The issue here is BCHW 501c3 which is not a citizen but a creation of the congress, it therefore has no constitutional rights. That being said joining that government created entity DOES NOT INFRINGE ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

So the organization (BCHW) must report its political activity but the CITIZEN NEED NOT.

We can and will take support and against positions on bills and laws that effect our mission as an organization. But any member who wants to support a candidate may and should do so. If that candidate wins and our active member visits that candidate wearing their BCHW jacket during session and speaks on behalf of the organizations mission so much the better. Citizen support of a candidate is not lobbying and need not nor should not be reported to me or anyone in the organization.

SO GO FOURTH AND CAMPAIGN FOR YOUR CANDIDATE AND MAKE SURE HE/SHE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.

As far as a member speaking on behalf of the organization we have made that clear already that positions of the organization are only issued by the Board of Directors. This will also be a part of the by law guidelines that are issued to the chapters and should be the subject of one of the standing rules. So it seems to me. Go forth and politic,

Bob Brooke

Contriuted by Judy Clark:

Mt Spokane Veterinarian Clinic offers a 20 % discount to Backcountry Horsemen for April and May. You have to show them a current membership card. I have an appointment to have coggins, west nils, 5 way, and strangles all with this discount.

**NEWS RELEASE:
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE**

KENNEWICK – Youngsters and families can connect with nature and learn outdoor skills at a Youth Outdoor Adventure Expo May 16-17 at the Benton County Fairgrounds here.

The free expo, co-sponsored by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Go Play Outside Alliance of Washington (GoPAW), is open to the general public Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The expo will feature instruction and demonstrations by more than 100 outdoor experts and educators. Activities for children and adults will include bird identification, bird-of-prey demonstrations, bat box construction, boating, casting, catch-and-release fishing, compass reading, fish identification, fish scale reading, fish tracking, firearm safety, fly tying, outdoor survival, poaching control and wildlife enforcement tools, and shrub-steppe wildlife studies.

On May 16 the expo will be open for students in grades 3-8 and their teachers. Expo hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and pre-registration is required. More than three dozen schools and over 1,500 students have signed up, according to John Kerwin, WDFW public outreach manager, and Dianne Warrant, GoPAW president, who are organizing the event.

Schools can continue to register students for the event through April 30 by contacting Keith

Underwood, WDFW outdoor specialist, at (360) 902-8310. Fuel stipends for transporting students to the event are available to schools at the rate of \$100 per bus or \$40 per van with at least eight students.

“Last year’s youth expo in Longview provided outdoor recreation experiences for over 4,000 youngsters and nearly 1,000 adults,” said WDFW Director Jeff Koenings. “These activities help young people develop a lifelong passion for the outdoors and wildlife.”

Such experiences have become more important than ever as an increasing number of children are growing up spending little time outdoors, Koenings said. A number of writers nationally have recently called attention to the so-called “nature deficit disorder.”

“Young people increasingly spend more time indoors exploring the Internet than outdoors exploring their environment,” he said. “That’s why the skills and experiences offered available at the Youth Expo are so important. These experiences offer a foundation for a lifetime of rewarding recreation and awareness of wildlife and natural resources.”

The expo is partly funded by a \$5,000 grant from Weatherby Foundation International, a non-profit foundation that supports events focused on outdoor skill-building, ethical sport hunting and conservation education—including outdoor expos—throughout the nation.



10%off coupon

WANTED: Your Camping Recipes

Well it's almost camping season and I would like to know what recipes everyone uses. I would be great if we could include a recipe/recipes a month in the newsletter. Any and all contributions would be wonderful. (Dutch Oven, BBQ, Soups, Salads ect.)



Letter from WTA, Jenni Blake to Nancy Harshman in response to packing in for volunteer trail work near Little Pend Oreille:

Thank you so much for your offer. I do not think that we will need stock assistance on this particular project, especially since we will be car camping. However, in the future we may need to call on you to help pack gear into a site, if we have a project which would require us to camp further in. I am going to forward your name to Tim Van Beek who is our weeklong Project Coordinator for future reference.

As for this project, most of our work will be digging new tread and the rock is pretty much on site for any structures we will need to build. We will definitely let you know if we discover something unexpected and need stock support.

We would love to have some of your folks come out for the day and work with us over the week of June 7- 14. As we get closer to that time, we will open sign up on our website (www.wta.org) for day work parties in conjunction with the weeklong.

Thanks again and hopefully we can work together in the future!

Sincerely,
Jenni Blake, Trail Programs Director
Washington Trails Association

Contributed by Jeanne Koester:

Last month at the NE Chapter Meeting, some of you may recall my strong reaction to Dana Ogle's question about " what good was it to be a 501 3 c or whatever?"

After taking some ribbing about pounding my fist on the table, I had to admit that this question is probably on more folks minds than just Dana's, which makes it a question worthy of a more articulate (perhaps more respectful) response.

As I see it there are three layers of potential benefit: the benefits at the state organization level, chapter level, and to the individual members depending upon your ability to work it for your advantage.

BCHW (that's all of us) is a 501 c3 status now because of our mission. Our purpose as defined by 501 c 3 eligibility is to maintain trails on public lands, lessen the burden of government and educate the public.

In May while we are working at Ride The West we will be engaging in activities related to our exempt purpose because we are educating the public about our mission. This means our mileage to and from these sorts of events is tax deductible, as are the costs for any goods and materials purchased by individuals or chapters. * Keep receipts-our good word doesn't cut it for IRS audits. You also need to record your mileage. These are tow examples of what I mean by depending upon your ability to take advantage of this opportunity. This isn't as self-serving as it may sound because BCHW benefits from every volunteer's contribution.

On your next trail ride if you stop and clear weeds and document this activity, then your mileage can be claimed on your personal income tax. Don't pick a daisy and call it a weed pull – it ain't.

Most folks who ride with me know that I put time into weed and garbage collection when we are camped for a while in any area. Please use your volunteer hours forms so that your claims of trail work can be verified. BCHW has a five -year IRS "safe harbor" to prove our status as an exempt organization so documentation is necessary.

Another possible benefit is that anything any of us donate to BCHW is tax deductible. I have plenty of donor forms and the donations made to Jubilee are tax deductible on your 2008 income tax. We can deduct BCHW related long-distance on our telephone bills, and the cost of any materials-food for a work party for example-if a member purchases and donates. * Keep your receipts- and be prepared to itemize your tax deductions in 2008.

Because BCHW is a 501 c 3 organization we can receive discounts at some merchants such as Cabela. Because we are part of a 501 c 3 organization we can write grants to get money to put on the ground with far broader eligibility. There are a lot more grants available for 501 c 3 organizations whereas previously we could only qualify for grants that didn't donate to non-profit tax-exempt organizations.

Before, as a 501 c 4 only merchants, such as trailer, truck, camper outfits could claim tax-deduction for donations made to BCHW. Now we can solicit substantial donations or make personal donations, and claim tax breaks as a result of helping out BCHW.

I hope I have answered some of Dana's question. If other folks have questions about our new tax status and how to make it work I will try to get those answers for you and I will keep working on identifying merchants who will offer us a discount by virtue of our good works.

Jeanne Koester Director, Northeast Chapter BCHW

Directions for Cowboy Breakfast Ride:

Camp over, Breakfast and Ride at Scotia - June 7th. Come Friday night if you can and ride Saturday.

RSVP to Gary or Christine Carroll 466-1106 or carroll@abcinet.net

Drive north on Highway 2 past SR211 about 1.5 miles Scotia Road turns right. About 7.5 miles you will see Woodman Rd. slow down, .25 mile to driveway on left, 2606 Scotia Road , Gathering Place .

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
May 15	Ride the West - set up trail class. Chapter meeting then dinner afterwards.		
		Jim Hudkins 509-276-8876	
May 16-18	Ride the West	Jim Hudkins 509-276-8876	
May 18	Wenas Valley Ride Wildflower are a bloomin'	Jeanne Koester 238-3267	
May 24-26	Memorial Weekend Reynolds Creek Work Party	Bob Gish	
June 3	Board of Directors Meeting Pizza Factory - 6:30PM	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
June 7	Cowboy Breakfast Ride @ Carrolls Scotia Road Location	Christine Carroll	
	Please see directions on page 5		
June 7	National Trails Day		
June 7	BCHW Board of Directors Meeting	Bob Gish	
June 14	PRVBCH Annual Poker Ride	Jack Lamb 208-263-4772	
June 19	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
July 17	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
July 19-20	Pass Creek Pass Work Party Camp at Gypsy Meadows Log out only - Clear trail from each end. Camping at Harvey Creek / Noisy Creek Trail #s - 533, 503, 588	Bob Gish 276-6226	
July 26	Ferry County BCH Steak Ride Lambert Creek Kettle Crest		
Aug 1-3	Shoe Tree Trail 261 - finish rock approach	Bob Gish 276-6226	
Aug 16	Chapter Meeting Pend Oreille Park Ride, Cook out	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
Aug 21	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
Sept 13-14	Kaniksu Cost Share - location unknown at this time-	Bob Gish 276-6226	
Sept 18	Chapter Meeting Williams Valley Grange	Leon Sproule 509-238-6318	
Sept 20-21	Kaniksu Cost Share	Bob Gish 276-6226	

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

Northeast Chapter BCHW
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