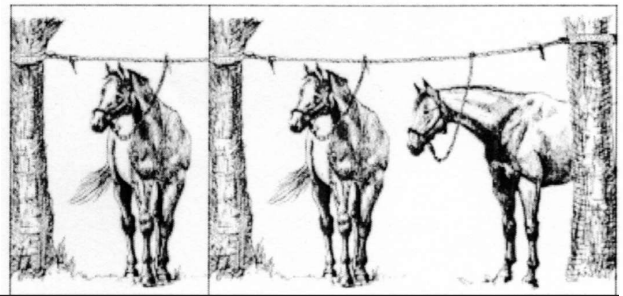


HIGHLINE

Inland Empire Backcountry Horsemen
P.O. Box 30891, Spokane, WA 99223

www.iebch.com



March 2011 Volume 11, Issue 3

MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION

Membership Meetings are the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council Building.

6116 N. Market, Spokane, WA

See you there!

Social 6:30 PM Meeting 7:00 PM

MARCH MEETING
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

March Membership Program

By Ken Carmichael

Spring is upon us and the snow starts to clear, the frost comes out of the ground and the days become longer. It is time to start thinking seriously about trail riding. Some of our rides provide the opportunities for solitude and reflection while other rides are a time to share the experience with friends. No matter where we are riding

Trail Etiquette and Safety are important.

This month at the meeting we will have a chance in small groups, like last month, to share our ideas about good trail etiquette. Sometimes it is difficult to separate trail etiquette and safety so let's just talk about both of them at the same time. Common sense and courtesy play a big role but there are lots of good ideas that we can share that will contribute to rides that are fun and safe for everyone.

Please pull your ideas together on trail etiquette and safety and bring them to the membership meeting March 22nd. ★



Trail Rides

By Don Dyer

This last membership meeting was one of the more productive meetings we have had in a very long time. Those of you that missed it missed a good one. I am still on the prowl for people to lead rides and to get rides on the calendar. Most of us joined BCH looking for a place to ride, some of us are willing to share our favorite places to ride, how about you sharing your favorite place to ride.

The board voted last board meeting to participate, in **Ride the West, which will take place July 22, 23 and 24**. We will be looking for volunteers to man the booth and help patrol the parking lot on horseback. The chapter will be doing a packing demonstration during the show and other demonstrations at our booth. I will be asking for volunteers at the next several meetings and requesting that you sign up soon. Mark these dates on your calendar. In order to get a free pass to the show you will be required to work a minimum number of hours each day, which will be determined in the near future.

There will be a **Camping with Horses clinic, May 21st to 22nd** at Riverside State Park. Several people at this meeting requested that we have the clinic and I agreed to put it on. Others may attend but you must reserve a place, there are two requirements, your horse must stand tied and you must stay overnight. You may camp in a tent, in your trailer or bring a camper or RV any method you chose. Our goal is to train you and your horse and make you comfortable with staying away from home for extended periods of time. There will be some Leave No Trace principals discussed, as this is one of the more important aspects of our existence. ★

Spring is Just Around the Corner!

By Barbee Scheibner

Despite the fact that it is snowing as I write this – we all need to start thinking about getting ourselves and our horses in shape for the coming riding season. It's been 4 months since I've been on my horse's back (the longest ever) so I've started doing some exercises, walking, and walking the horses.

Horses don't get out of shape as fast as we do – it takes about the second month for them to start really going down hill, while it takes us only about 1-2 weeks to start getting out of shape. My plan is to ride in the arena and pasture to get Spanky reacquainted with me and what

—continued on page 2

See page 5 for other event details

SEE
INSERT

POKER RIDE 

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the *Inland Empire Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington* is to preserve and enhance the right to use horses and mules for recreation on public lands.

VISION STATEMENT

Develop and keep trails open for responsible recreational use.

Objectives to Achieve Our Goals

- ★ To unite equestrians to achieve the mission and goals of Backcountry Horsemen.
- ★ To encourage citizen involvement in political and governmental laws affecting public lands.
- ★ To be proactive in interpretation and implementation by local land managers of regulatory policies regarding equine use on public lands.
- ★ To educate and inform land users and managers about the etiquette, impact and historical use of recreational lands.
- ★ To recruit, introduce and educate interested horsemen to the use, safety and enjoyment of trails and the backcountry.
- ★ To be a proactive volunteer in building and maintaining trails.
- ★ To provide social activities for equestrians.
- ★ To support BCHW and BCHA.

Spring from page 1

I expect him to do for about a week. I ride in little and big circles, figure eights, back him, over logs, sidepass, start some trotting, trying not to bore him or me. I would start in half hour increments and move into hour rides, then gradually add some hills.

All this is called 'legging up'. BUT there is one other set of muscles to consider – those back and belly muscles. All of a sudden he's carrying my weight on his back which is sturdy but still hasn't seen action for quite a while. And like your back and belly muscles they support a lot of weight.

Add your weight, plus the saddle, and eventually your gear (saddle bags, etc.) for a day ride and you can sympathize with him (think of carrying a 30-40 pound backpack).

We've all heard stories of the hunter who takes his horse and pack horse into mountains having not ridden them for a year and wonders why one of them dies. Even when you take that first walk of half a mile or a mile you might consider crawling back home. But

—continued on page 4

ATTENTION Lost items!

Remember the last Christmas Party? I have 3 items that were left there.

1. A Tupperware lid 9 x 13 inches
2. A very nice clear green plastic dinner size plate – the up raised side has a pattern on the back
3. A very nice Lands' End winter neck scarf – dark blue, thin fleece

If the owners would **please contact me, Barbee (624-6292)**, I will gladly return them. Otherwise they are going to the Good Will. Thank you.



For the Animals in Your Life!
Thank You BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN

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14705 E Sprague Ave, Spokane Valley • 509-926-6603
10505 N Newport Highway, Spokane • 509-466-1300



HIGHLINE

The **HIGHLINE** is published monthly by the *Inland Empire Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Washington State*.

Christine Bennett, Publisher

Views expressed in the Highline are the sole responsibility of the author and are not necessarily the official view of IEBCH.

Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Send by 9am the **4th of each month** to:

Ken Carmichael, Editor
10804 W. Seven Mile Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224

or Email:
kcarmichael2225@gmail.com

AFFILIATIONS

The IEBCH is a chapter of the **Back Country Horsemen of Washington State** (www.bchw.org) and the **Back Country Horsemen of America** (www.backcountryhorse.com).

MEMBERSHIP

Please complete and sign the application/waiver for all renewals/new memberships. They need to be updated yearly. ★ Dues are due January 1.

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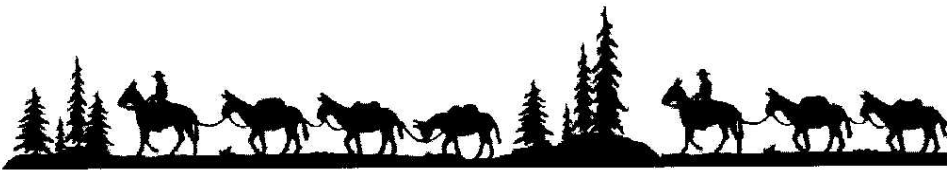
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Accentuate the positive. . . and move with (positive) intention.

By Aline Cook

Have you heard? We have a membership total of 100! With several new members registering the last two meetings; we are growing, again. One new member is a former outfitter / packer and has already offered to participate with our Trail Boss on some chapter events. Our other new members also bring qualifications and interests and I'm looking forward to getting to know them, too. It has been my intention that we continue to grow our membership this year and it's happening.

The few comments I've heard about February's membership meeting and the break-out groups have been upbeat and enthusiastic; so, it's with that enthusiasm we are taking the results of the break-out groups to direct our IEBCH planning for community action, education, and program events. I'll present a summary of the results to the March general membership meeting with the invitation for each member to put their name on a line at the meeting for a specific responsibility during this upcoming year. Please, make your intention to give at least one service to IEBCH functions this year. (As the meeting begins it will be announced where you may do this.)

You may also have heard that the **annual meeting, Rendezvous 2011, is happening in Ellensburg on March 18, 19 & 20th.** I'm looking forward to whole event - beginning to end, the work and the fun. My intention is to meet as many new BCH members from across the state as possible, get good training for the position of Chapter President, and get a good vision for BCHW and IEBCH's part in it.

And finally, have you heard? A group of 8 recently (3/4/11) rode out just west of Riverside State Park to Larry Durham's cabin and back. The results are in – the first ride of the year, it broke out a good sweat on the horses and good humor broke out on the people. Speaking of intention – safety. One rider on yesterday's ride always wears her helmet (a new one) as the old one saved her melon once already – her intention is always to have a safe ride. And a good depth of snow exists in the shady spots yet, so when riding do intend safety along with fun for you and your horse.

What is your intention with IEBCH this year? "You are what your deepest desire is. As your desire is, so is your intention. As your intention is, so is your will. As your will is, so is your deed. As your deed is, so is your destiny." ~ *Upanishads* ★

Membership

By Ken Carmichael

One of the goals of BCH is to maintain a strong and healthy membership for this is the only way we can accomplish our mission of keeping trails open.

It is good to report in this new year of 2011 that IEBCH is well on its way to another good membership year. As of this date there are 40 single memberships and 32 family memberships for a total of 104 adult members.

The newest members to join us at the February meeting are: **Sara Mansfield, Diane Doran, Barbara Katsarsky and Heather Norwood.** Please make a special effort to make these people feel welcome at all of our events.

As always, if anyone has any questions concerning BCH please ask a board member. Our names and contact information are listed on page 5 of this newsletter. ★

Board Members

President

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alinecook@hotmail.com

Vice President

Vacant

State Director

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Alternate State Director

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Legislative

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Isla Durham - 466-4225

No email

Webmaster

Christine Bennett - 253-833-0963
chrisbrent@yahoo.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	PLACE	DESCRIPTION	OPEN TO...	CONTACT
March 12	Fair Grounds	4-H Tack Swap	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
March 15	Perkins Restaurant 12 E Olive Ave	Board Meeting	<i>Members Only</i>	Aline Cook: 939-8162
March 16	Spokane Falls Community College	Mt Spokane Public Workshop	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
March 19-20	Ellensburg	BCHW Annual Meeting / Rendezvous	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
March 22	Wildlife Council Building 6116 N Market St, Spokane	Membership Meeting	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Aline Cook: 939-8162
April 2	Randy Durheim's	Annual Vet Check Clinic	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Teresa York: 466-0247
April 9	Riverside State Park	Equestrian area work party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
April 9	Dishman Hills	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Barbee Scheibner: 624-6292
April 23	Liberty Lake	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
April 30	Liberty Lake	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
May 7	Fish Trap Lake	Poker Pre-ride	<i>Volunteers ONLY</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
May 14	Fish Trap Lake	Poker Ride	<i>Guests welcome Reg. Required</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
May 15	Riverside State Park	Open House	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Ken Carmichael: 466-2225
May 21	Rustler's Gulch	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
May 21 *reinstated*	Riverside State Park	Education Camping with Horses	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Don Dyer: 279-0842
May 28-30	Priest Lake	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
June 4	Nat'l Trails Day	Rustler's Gulch Work Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
July 22-24	Randy Durheim's	Ride the West	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Don Dyer: 279-0842
July 30	Marie Creek, ID	Ride	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Bill Clark: 208-773-8678
August TBD	Priest Lake	Work Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	Scott Wiggins: 868-1641
August 6-7	Lolo Pass, ID	Ride	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Joel Crosby: 991-2312
October 8	Liberty Lake	Ride	<i>Guests welcome RSVP</i>	Jon & Michelle Irwin: 599-9605
December 10	Cascade Mobile Home Community	Christmas Party	<i>Guests welcome</i>	TBD

Spring is Just Around the Corner from page 2

it doesn't take long, perhaps 2 weeks and you are striding out. We start out easy, so does the horse need to.

Also in your plan is to slowly add some hills. This is important in our area as some of the places we ride are literally mountains – Liberty Lake, Mt Spokane, Marie Creek, Abercrombie, etc. Start with Riverside Park, it has numerous hills, is pretty in the spring (hopefully we have one this year), or in your area. Even Fishtrap has hills in it with lots of up and downs.

My point is, consider your horse's body an extension of your body, get them both in shape over a period of time and you can have a long and good riding season and a lot of fun. Good Riding, Happy Trails! ★

April 2

IEBCH Annual Vet Day!

By Scott Wiggins

On **Saturday, April 2** from **10 AM to 4 PM** we will have the opportunity to have our horses vet checked for the summer. Dr. McKinley/Dr. Peters will be there to provide shots, health certificates (incl. Coggins tests) and brand inspections.

This is a great deal, costs are minimal:

- Farm call \$5
- Health Certificate and Coggins test \$45 (Note this is needed to take your horse into Idaho)
- Brand inspections - \$48 for one year or \$98 for life time (Note this is needed to take your horse out of Washington)
- Other necessary and desired shots also available

We will have FREE chile and cornbread. Drinks are \$1 each. Come join us, bring your horses and have a great day.

For more information call Teresa at 847-4193 or Aline at 939-8163. ★

*Randy Durheim's
15420 W Four Mounds Rd
(on the right, red & white indoor arena)*

- From Nine Mile Rd (highway 291) go west on Seven Mile Rd.
- After crossing over the Spokane River Randy's is 4 to 4.5 miles past the bridge
- Once you turn onto Seven Mile Rd there are no more turns as Seven Mile becomes Four Mounds Rd.

Mt. Spokane State Park Public Workshop

By Ken Carmichael

State parks will hold a public workshop about the Mount Spokane ski area expansion proposal from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on **Wednesday, March 16th at Sub Lounge AB&C (also known as rooms 102, 103 and 104 in building 17 at Spokane Falls Community College, 341 W. Fort George Wright Dr. in Spokane.**

April 9 • First Work Parties of the Year!

Riverside State Park Equestrian Area Work Party

By Ken Carmichael

On **Saturday, April 9th at 10:00 AM** a group of us will gather to clean loose nails out of the equestrian arena at Riverside State Park.

This arena has some great deep sand but we fear there may be some nails in it. The Northwest Treasure Hunters Club, along with their metal detectors, will join us.

There are few arenas that we can use to exercise and train our trail horses so it is in our best interest to help keep this arena functional.

Please come and spend just a short time looking for nails. Bring a rake, shovel, metal detector, commercial magnet or anything useful. As long as you are coming you could bring your horse for a short ride after the work if you wish.

Questions? Contact me at 466-2225. ★

Directions to Equestrian Area:

- Northwest on Government Way past Fort George Wright Dr. and road becomes Trails Rd.
- Turn right on Aubrey L White Parkway then watch for sign pointing to the right into the Equestrian area.

OR

- From the west go north from Highway 2 on Hayford Rd. which turns into Trails Road Rd.
- Turn left on Aubrey L White Parkway then watch for sign point to the right into the Equestrian area.

Dishman Hills Natural Area Work Party

By Barbee Scheibner

Keep **Saturday, April 9, 2011** reserved for a work party in the **Dishman Hills Natural Area**. REI and the Dishman Hills Association sponsor this work party. It will be **9:30 AM to 1:30 PM**, coffee and donuts in the morning, food for lunch.

We belong to the Dishman Hills Alliance which proposes joining the Dishman Hills Area with the Iller Creek Conservation Area to the south which is about 1000+ acres. Horses are allowed in this latter area. Our IEBCH purpose in helping the Natural Area is that this is what BCH does – we also help the community clear trails, etc. Ultimately we 'build bridges' to their understanding of what we do.

Anyway, **we need people with chain saws to cut out fallen trees and transient camps, and willing hands.** Unfortunately we can't use our 4 footed friends, so be prepared to walk. **There is also a bridge to repair and some other work where we might not have to walk very far.**

Let me know if you can help at 624-6292. Thanks.

P.S. We did this last year also w/ Bob Spickard. ★

as the PASEA). The proposal and other information concerning the potential expansion can be found on line at www.parks.wa.gov/plans/mtspokane2/.

How does this affect equestrians? Mt. Spokane State Park is a major facility for equestrians. If we are to have an influence on how the park is managed then we must be at the table constantly to represent the equestrian interests. The current designation for this part of the park does not allow equestrian use. If the land designation for the 279 acres were to allow for a ski lift then it is believed that it would also allow equestrians. ★

March 16

Participants will learn about the expansion proposal being made by Mount Spokane 2000, the concessionaire that runs the ski area in the park.

The proposal would expand the ski area by 279 acres, into an 800 acre portion of Mount Spokane State Park that currently does not have a formal land-use classification (commonly referred to

Portion of this article was printed with the Permission of the owner of TrailMeister Magazine, Robert Eversole. Robert is also the Tahoma Chapter director as well as BCHW's assistant treasurer. Thank you Robert! Please check out his website for some very useful and informative resources: <http://www.trailmeister.com/>

Be a Ghost Rider Beyond Leave No Trace LNT for Trail Riders

You're only riding your horse to and from your trailer or camp spot, and Leave No trace (LNT) just applies to camping right? Wrong. Leave No Trace principles are just as applicable to the recreational trail rider as to the dedicated back country packer. In fact the actions of those of us that ride in the "front country" may even have more impact due to the greater number of users.

We get so much enjoyment from trail riding that we should take every opportunity to make sure that trail restrictions do not increase and threaten our ability to ride on our favorite trails.

As equestrian trail users we have wonderful opportunities to protect our trails from before we saddle up to when we arrive back at camp or trailer. These simple and easy tips will help.

Before the ride – Before we take the first step on the trail we can start minimizing our impact by planning for the ride.

- Choose your trail wisely - Save rides in historically wet, or muddy, areas for times when conditions are typically drier. The object is to "Leave No Trace" and a horse on muddy or marshy ground is going to leave holes and churned mud. The whole idea of LNT is that no one will know you've been there.
- Practice with your horse at home - Make a point of crossing water, logs and other obstacles during your regular rides. A horse that fights his rider at a stream crossing is not only dangerous but tramples the bank and pushes sediment into the water. Trail horses need to be trained not only for rider safety but also to protect the environment.

During the ride – Once we get on the trail our opportunities to reduce our impact grow even larger.

- Travel on durable surfaces and stay on the trail. Don't go around muddy areas should you come across them. Train your horse to go straight through. If you go around the trail will widen and become even muddier in the future. Mud is part of the challenge. Expect it.
- Since horse's hooves can exert pressures exceeding 1,000 pounds per square inch on trail surfaces the destructive potential from horses is significant.
- Also, refrain from cutting your own switchbacks or short cuts. After waiting all week to go trail riding why take a short cut just to get home quicker?
- Stay in the center of the trail, single file, and avoid trailside vegetation areas. The one thousand plus pounds of pressure that a horse can put on the land can quickly trample and destroy off-trail areas.
- Don't let your horse stop on the trail to make a deposit. Keep the horse moving, and the manure will naturally scatter behind, speeding up decomposition and causing less bother for other trail users. ★

VOLUNTEER TO LEAD A RIDE IN 2011!

Gentlemen on Horseback

By Ken Carmichael

This is to inform BCH members about a great ride for Gentlemen that is not sponsored by BCH. However, in 2010 there were about 10 BCH members on the ride and it is a great way to see new country.

Since 1948 men from all over the Northwest and beyond have gathered to participate in the "Gentlemen on Horseback" ride. This is a rich tradition that we can be part of. The ride was started when a group of Spokane-area horsemen decided to ride their horses from Spokane to the Okanogan Valley to participate in the Washington Cattlemen's annual convention. Nowadays, we drive our rigs to a designated camping area, set up a base camp and ride out for 5 days to different attractions in the area (lakes, mountain vistas, etc). The rides can range from 10 to 25 miles/day. Riders bring their own horse, camp and hay. The ride is catered so all meals are included in the fee of \$200/man. Riders can also come for fewer days at \$40 per day. This is the pre-registration price for registrations received by May 21. After May 21 the cost will be \$225 for the week or \$45/day.

This year the ride will be staged out of the north end of the Owyhee River system about 29 miles SW of Nyssa, OR, about 75 miles west of Boise ID from June 12 to the 17th. Besides the great food, this is an outstanding time of riding and sharing the company of other horsemen.

We also have an annual banquet on Sunday, March 12 at 5:00 PM at the Timber Creek Grill Buffet, 9211 E Montgomery Dr. (Argonne Village) in Spokane Valley. We talk about last year and receive more information on this year's ride as well as a slide show, entertainment and lots of laughs.

For more information contact **Ken Carmichael** at 509-466-2225 or kcarmichael2225@gmail.com or the trail boss for the ride is **Scott Wiggins** at 509-868-1641 or kdlyle@peoplepc.com. Information is also available on www.gentlemenonhorseback.com. ★

BCHW Columbia Plateau Region Council Meeting

By Ken Carmichael

On February 20th Barbee Scheibner and I attended the Columbia Plateau Region Council meeting in Ritzville. This is an opportunity for eastern Washington BCH chapter to discuss common issues and prepare for the BCHW board meeting.

There was a wide range of issues discussed including chainsaw certification, forest service regulations, state parks, liability releases, upcoming chapter events, health certificates and brand inspections, BCHW lobbyists and BCHW calendar sales for 2012.

The discussion turned to the development and future of BCHW. It was agreed that for the organization to survive and fulfill its mission BCHW must have **adequate funding, leadership and a strong membership.**

We determined that for this to happen we must, among other things:

1. Convey to our membership why BCHW and BCHA are in existence and the importance of the state and national organizations in accomplishing the mission.
2. Identify the hard and soft dollar values of the state and national organizations to the membership and success of the chapters.
3. Develop additional exposure of BCH through association with other organizations.

The five chapters present at the Columbia Plateau Regional Council meeting (Crab Creek Riders, Inland Empire, Northeast, Purple Sage Riders and the Rattlesnake Ridge Riders) recognize that as a grass roots organization and the need for these efforts to start at the chapter level challenge other chapters in BCHW to develop the process and passion necessary to accomplish these goals.

One area of hard dollar value of BCHW to IEBCH, and our success, is that BCHW, through the purchasing power of 34 chapters, is able to purchase liability insurance. Without that insurance we would not be able to put on the poker ride. The poker ride is the major chapter fund raiser and makes our existence possible.

We will be talking about other aspects of BCHW and BCHA in the future. ★

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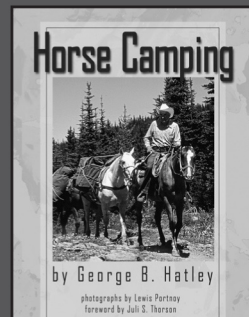
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Poker Ride

By Ken Carmichael

The 17th annual poker ride on Saturday, **May 14th** is one month closer and many people are busy getting ready. Direct mail registration forms have been sent to 436 previous participants. This year we have also sent information about the ride to 56 equestrian groups and stables. Also there is an article about the ride in the **BCHW Trailhead News**.

There are articles in other area publications and ads in the Exchange. Christine Bennett has the information on our website. **Kathy Arbuckle** is ordering more T-shirts to sell. **Cheryl Jacobsen** is gathering door prizes and **Gayle Hennings**, along with help, is distributing fliers around the area.

Major sponsors for the ride this year are **Aslin-Finch, Stimson Contracting Inc.** and **Will Rogers Saddle Co.** We want to especially thank these great companies for supporting us.

We have some new members in BCH so a short explanation may be in order. **What is a poker ride?** Participants ride a designated route at their own speed stopping at designated points to play a game (throw a dart, roll a marble, spin a dial) to determine a playing card. After five stops they have the makings of a poker hand based on how well they did at the games. Winners are the ones with the best and worst poker hands. We expect about 250 riders. Gift certificates are provided to the best and worst hands as well as numerous door prizes provided by our wonderful sponsors.

Why does BCH sponsor a poker ride? The poker ride serves several functions. It puts the BCH name out to the riding public and many people learn about what we are doing for the equestrian community. It is a fund raiser for our chapter. In raising money this way we are able to keep our dues to a minimum and it helps to provide many of the services such as printing fliers about BCH and promoting and operating our Leave No Trace program. It is a social event. Although it is a job to put on the event believe me when I say that the people that are involved have lots of fun doing it.

What does it take to put on a poker ride? Mainly lots of volunteers. This is our 17th year and we have it pretty well organized so the stress is minimal but still there is work to get it advertised, gather door prizes, organized and run on **May 14th**. We expect about 50 volunteers on the day of the ride.

What should I do? First find out where you can best fit into the picture. This is a multi-talented project so everyone fits in somewhere. In fact, some of our best help comes from our rider's spouses. It is a good opportunity for these people, or other friends, to come out and enjoy being around BCH.

Of course we are still looking for lots more help. On the day of the ride we still need help with outriders. Outriders are members that are positioned along the ride on their horses to watch over the trail. This is a great job. It is a fantastic time to get in a day of riding and help BCH. We need people to hold participants horses at registration as well as all of the game stations. These volunteers do not bring their own horses. Please come out and join us in one of the biggest events of the year.

On May 7th we have our pre-ride. This is only for the poker ride volunteers as it is a working event and we do not want a large group. The purpose is to check the trail, clear any problems we encounter and to familiarize the volunteers with the route. It also gives those of us that "work" that day an opportunity to see the trail. If you are a volunteer mark your calendar and specifics will be in next month's newsletter.

REMEMBER – tell all your friends about the BCH poker ride, register to ride yourself or volunteer to help. It will be a great day.

To volunteer contact Ken Carmichael at 466-2225. ★



Volunteer!

Pre-Register by May 11 for discount

MAY 14, 2011

BLM LAND AT FISH TRAP LAKE *West of Spokane*

PRIZES!

OVERNIGHT CAMPING AVAILABLE (AT NO ADDT'L COST)

SNACKS AND T-SHIRTS FOR PURCHASE

Washington State Discover Pass

By Ken Carmichael

If you have been watching the news you may have already seen some information about the proposed Washington State Discover Pass.

The lack of stable, sustainable funding has put state lands at risk. Governor Gregoire's proposed 2011-13 budget would remove virtually all state General Fund tax support for state lands. In short what this pass will do is pay for the operation of Washington State Fish and Wildlife Land (WDFD), Department of Natural Resources Land (DNR) and State Parks.

This will be done by charging basically a fee for motorized vehicles entering or parking on these public lands. The proposed fee is \$30 per year, or \$10 per day, or \$20 for a three day pass. There is a provision for a free annual pass for 24 hours of volunteer work or if you are on food stamps. Also State Parks is proposing 12 free days a year. Another proposal is a reduced fee for WDFW land use when a hunting license is purchased. Actually there are several exceptions being proposed that I will not go into here. Funds received from these passes would be deposited in a separate account and be dedicated to operation and maintenance of the identified agency land.

This will replace the current provision by which you can donate \$5 to state parks when you renew your vehicle license.

BCHW has been involved with reviewing these bills and comments have been provided. Some of these have been to reduce the number of volunteer hours from 40 to 24 for a pass. Others are to insure that our trailers and campers do not require a separate pass and that if we own two vehicles a single pass may be used on two vehicles. Many ideas have been floated. I believe the first one was for everyone to carry individual passes rather than have a vehicle pass. Others were for higher fees.

Why is this being done? Basically it follows the issue of the funding crises for the state. They are looking for all possible means to cut spending to balance the budget. By implementing this user fee these state agencies will be taken out of the general budget and will be self supporting.

As I write this it still has not been determined exactly how the fees will be divided between the three agencies. One proposal has WDFD and DNR each receiving 8% and State Parks receiving 84%. After \$71 million is collected the funds would be divided equally. Another has WDFD and DNR each receiving a guaranteed \$5.5 million.

The DNR manages more than 5 million acres of state lands for recreation. The WDFW manages 843,000 acres of recreational land and nearly 700 water-access sites. The State Parks and Recreation Commission operates 119 developed parks and other recreation properties totaling 120,000 acres statewide.

Up to date information on this topic can be obtained by going on the legislative website www.leg.wa.gov and following senate bill 5622 and house bill 1796.

Please note that this is a brief summary of the subject, it is not settled yet and there are bound to be changes. However, it does affect our riding in Riverside and Mt. Spokane State Parks and Rustler's Gulch WDFW among other properties. Stay tuned for additional information.

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BLM Wild Lands

By Ken Carmichael

An issue that BCHW is tracking is the provision where some BLM land would be classified as "Wild Lands".

I have talked to Steve Smith of BLM about the subject and he said that BLM is taking an inventory of all lands to determine which properties qualify as Wild Lands. Those that are identified as qualifying would then be managed as Wild Lands until a final determination is made. This classification is more restrictive in its use.

There is some disagreement as to what it would take to do a final classification and this is where we must be careful. To classify forest land as Wilderness requires an act of congress. There is concern that this is not the case for Wild Lands. And it could be done with little or no due process.

The BLM land that we use most is: Fish Trap Lake, Escure Ranch and Lakeview Ranch among others.

We don't have to sweat it the way the motorized and bicycle folks are, but we do need to stay tuned in as this drama plays out. If you see any information on the topic please let us know. ★



JOIN or RENEW TODAY!

rev 10/10/08

IEBCH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1 **New Member** **Renewal** Member# _____

Current Members: *changes* *no changes*

PRINT Name(s):

(1) _____

(2) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (area code) _____ - _____

Email: _____ @ _____

Email is only used for IEBCH related events & information; it is never sold.

Newsletter (choose one): email or USMail

County: _____ Legislative District: _____

- Dues are deductible as charitable (501(c)3) contributions for income tax purposes.
- Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Who referred you to BCH? _____

2 All dues are per calendar year (including chapter, state and national). **Please select either Program A or B.**

	Family	-OR-	Single
Membership	<input type="radio"/> \$64		<input type="radio"/> \$47
Optional Chapter Donation	<input type="radio"/> \$_____		<input type="radio"/> \$_____
TOTAL	<input type="radio"/> \$_____		<input type="radio"/> \$_____

¹Includes chapter, state & national dues

-OR- one of the following **optional BCHW memberships**

	Family	-OR-	Single
Contributing	<input type="radio"/> \$80		<input type="radio"/> \$76
Sustaining	<input type="radio"/> \$115		<input type="radio"/> \$111
Patron	<input type="radio"/> \$265		<input type="radio"/> \$261
Benefactor	<input type="radio"/> \$515		<input type="radio"/> \$511
Lifetime			<input type="radio"/> \$1200*

Program B additional funds help support BCHW programs

*IEBCH Chapter dues continue to be due every year

Total Enclosed \$_____ (Checks payable to IEBCH)

Mail to: P.O. Box 30891, Spokane, WA 99223

3 **LIABILTY RELEASE Each member MUST Sign!**

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever 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. Minor children names: _____

Adult Signed (1): _____ Signed (2): _____ Date: _____



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P.O. BOX 30891
SPOKANE, WA 99223