



The President's Corner

Having just returned from the BCHW leadership training, annual meeting, fundraiser and fun-raiser this past weekend, it feels good to sit back, relax and enjoy our Chapter's success. The real work stuff will start soon enough.

There is going to be an article on the annual meeting, but first I want to brag on our Chapter's display. For the last 4 years Crab Creek Riders Chapter awards a plaque to the Chapter that provides the best display representing our mission statement and the work we do. They also judge on detail, originality and eye appeal. I am proud to say that we have been awarded the 1st place plaque for two years in a row. This year our display was a scaled down model of a turnpike complete with running water. It was titled, "Building a Turnpike 101." Unfortunately we forgot to put the title on the display, but I guess it didn't make any difference to the judges. For those of you that could not attend the event, we will set up the display at our next business meeting . Be sure to attend because it will be a celebration meeting for more reason's than one.

On another subject, we received a check this past month from the BCHW grant committee for tools, meals, and mileage for last years work projects. Its always nice to get a check in the mail and this money will help boost our financial picture. My thanks go out to the people that did the work so we could be eligible for the money.

The Whistler Canyon Trailhead property purchase and development is proceeding with donations. Trygve has been very busy preparing grants for the future work on the new trailhead. We hope to be awarded a BCHW grant in the near future for the trail system for the work to be accomplished in 2010. Another grant will be submitted by Okanogan County and hopefully awarded in the next 2 months, again providing funds for 2010 and 2011. But we will have started out by cleaning, grubbing, and providing major maintenance to the old Whistler Canyon trail system the last week-end in March. I hope I will have seen many of you out there helping.

The next major event is the Baxter Black performance on Saturday, April 11th at the PAC. We are looking for volunteers to bake cookies for the "after performance reception. Baxter will be autographing and selling his books as well as an art display available for viewing and purchasing. If you can bake some cookies let Janet Culp or myself know. And if you haven't purchased your tickets, please do so soon. With receipt of your check, we can hold your tickets at our will-call desk. Till then, Dave

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VOLUNTEER HOURS INFORMATION

There have been some changes!

Some new ideas and some new guidelines were presented at the leadership class for the volunteer hours coordinators. The plans are about 95% complete and I expect I will be getting the final guidelines and forms soon. I'll be keeping you informed as to any final instructions.

Until then, these are some changes you can expect starting April 1, 2009. The biggest change will be in reporting the time an officer, elected or appointed position. In the past, only the newsletter editor and volunteer coordinator could count their time as volunteer time. That has changed and now any officer, elected or appointed person can record their hours. The only time excluded from this reporting is the actual time spent at the monthly business meeting or monthly board meeting. The line had to be drawn someplace, and that was the decision. But, if you have a very elaborate and educational report to make at those meetings, that time could be considered. And any prep time for those reports would definitely be recordable as volunteer hours.

Next, everybody that operates a chainsaw (or manual saw) will need to be certified in order for that time to be recorded under power equipment. If you are not certified, you will be recording your time in the general trail clearing column along with all the other swappers and go-fers. We get a higher dollar rate for the power hours so it is important to follow through with your certification.

Another point; we will now be keeping track of the number of miles of trail we clear on any specific trail clearing project. This will apply only to our Chapter's accumulation and not to any individual. But it will be important if you clear trail on your own time to estimate the trail miles cleared and report that along with your hours.

And the last thing, if you keep your ear to the grapevine or participate in our Chapter activities, you will soon come to notice that we can be found amount the top of the heap as far as being organized and up to speed with higher tech than simply me e-mailing the information to a volunteer at the BCHW level. Instead, they hope to be setting up a password protected site on the BCHW web page and the information will be sent there. Individuals with the compatible computer program will be able to fill the sheet out themselves and email it to me for review and then I will submit to the website.

Eventually, we could get to a point where individuals could send directly to BCHW, but there was some concern about accuracy and timeliness so that won't be happening for some time, if at all.

Sometimes it is hard to deal with change, but these changes will be a good thing and as I think of the members that do the volunteer work, not a single one of you will have a problem with this new deal. And for those of you that might be new to the volunteering side of our work, you can always just pick up the phone and call me.

As for pitch for doing the volunteer work, now that we are a 501c3 charitable organization, the charity we give is our volunteer time. You might not be interested in accumulating the volunteer hours patches for your underwear drawer, but the whole thing is bigger than that. It can equate to being eligible for receiving grant money for the work we do. See you out there

Peggy

Volunteer Hours Coordinator

April 2009

Monthly Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesdays at the Tonasket Senior Center

Social Hour 6:30

Meeting @ 7:00

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Baxter Black @ Omak PAC</i>
12	13 <i>Board Mtg</i>	14	15 <i>Business Mtg. @ Tonasket Sr Center</i>	16	17	18 <i>Scotch Crk Trail Ride</i>
	20	21 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>	22 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>	23 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>	24 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>	25 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>
26 <i>BCHA Natl Board Mtg.</i>	27	28	29	30		

2009 Officers

President: Dave Swanberg **Vice President:** Gail Sunde **Director:** Tryg Culp **Alt Director:** Frank Osborne

Secretary: Dawn Crowell **Treasurer:** Cathy Kvistad **Legislative Chair:** Dave Sunde

Education Chair: Janet Logan **Trail Boss:** Tom Windsor **Asst Trail Boss:** Bob Crowell

Volunteer Hours: Peggy Swanberg **Newsletter Editor:** Susan Beck **Historian:** Sandra Walters

TRAIL BOSS REPORT

April 2009

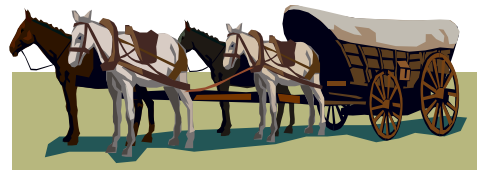
There are two Chapter trail rides scheduled for April; One on Wednesday 15 April which is a ladies ride in the Sinlahekin Valley and one on Saturday 18 April which will start at the Scotch Creek Trailhead at the end of the Hess Lake Road. The weather in April can be cool and damp so be sure to dress appropriately. See information in this newsletter for additional information on the ladies ride.

There will be a work party on Thursday 9 April to clear the trail for the ladies ride scheduled for 15 April. Anyone interested can meet me and Bob Crowell at the WDFW Campground located at the north end of Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin Valley on the morning of the 9th. This is a short trail and has had some work done on it last year, so it shouldn't take us too long to clear any windfall or brush that has dropped across the trail during the winter.

If anyone is interested in riding all the way through the valley from Scotch Creek Trailhead to the Fish Lake Trailhead on the 18th, we can discuss this at the membership meeting on 15 April. You may also call me at home. The distance between the two trailheads is approximately 7 miles.

Be sure to get your tickets for Baxter Black at the PAC scheduled for Saturday 11 April. .

Tom Windsor, Trail Boss
509-826-4595



April Board Meeting: At the Culp home on the 13th at 7:00pm

General Meeting April 15th!

Director's Report March 2009

Wow, what a month March turned out to be – chainsaw safety refresher, saddle cleaning clinic and pizza party the first weekend; the Northeast Chapter packing clinic the second weekend; the BCHW Annual Meeting, awards ceremony, catered dinner, fund raising auction and dance combined with Leadership Training the third weekend and finally the Whistler Canyon trail work party the last weekend. On top of all of that – winter absolutely refuses to give way to spring here in the Highlands. We still have about 75% snow cover in the pastures around our house and the driveway remains a muddy mess. I know summer is coming though, for when we came home from the Annual Meeting we were greeted by literally hundreds of robins and mountain blue birds in all of the pine trees and serviceberry bushes around the home place.

Somewhere in all of that BCHW activity I attended the first quarter Board of Directors meeting. The Board did not do a lot of business, but I'll give you the highlights on what was reported and accomplished:

- The Membership Chair reported that our statewide membership is currently right at 1144 memberships with around 2200 members. Although this is somewhat low compared with past years, this is the first year that our membership database has been programmed to drop members whose dues have not been paid as of the mailing date for the March/April issue of the Trailhead News. Typically, memberships rebound in the second and third quarters of the year.
- The Volunteer Hours Chair reported that we set an all time record of 70,500 volunteer hours in 2008. That equates to about \$1,057,500 worth of labor at \$15 per hour to keep trails open for the recreational use of saddle and pack stock. Pat yourselves on the back – we done real good!
- The Board voted to register BCHW as a statewide charitable organization; individual Chapters that anticipate routinely receiving \$25,000 or more each year in charitable donations will have to register as individual charities. OVC will fall under the BCHW “umbrella” as it is highly unlikely that we will routinely receive such hefty donations.
- The Grants Committee Chair reported on the status of the 2008/2009 Recreation Trails Program grants that BCHW received last year. There is a balance of approximately \$70,000 remaining. All of the Chapters with outstanding invoices will be paid. *Note: OVC received \$1300 for work we did on the Antoine turnpikes last summer.* The Board was also briefed on the 2010/2011 RTP grant application. That grant includes OVC's request for around \$43,000 to reconstruct and maintain the lower end of the Whistler Canyon Trail on Okanogan County lands.

The BCHA Director (me) invited the BOD and membership to attend open sessions of the National Board Meeting to be held in Fort Warden outside Port Townsend the third week in April.

I'll cover more of the Directors meeting next month, but I wanted to save some room in this column for some well deserved congratulations: 1st. Congratulations to OVC President Dave Swanberg for winning one of this years BCHW Lopper Awards; 2nd. Congratulations to Peggy Swanberg for winning the Volunteer Hours Chairman's award for overall accuracy and documentation of Chapter activities; and 3rd. Congratulations to OVC - with a special tip of the Stetson to Dave and Peggy Swanberg - for winning the Chapter Display award for the 2nd year in a row (should be 3rd year in a row, I think). The competition among the various Chapters was certainly more intense than I've ever observed in some 15 years or so. Thanks Dave and Peg for representing OVC so well.

Until next month – Happy Trails.

Trygve Culp



OVBCH BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2009

Meeting was called to order by President Dave Swanberg

18 Current members were present, Welcome to new members Jon and Vanetta Sullivan and guest Dede Lavezzo.

Minutes of the January 21, 2009 business meeting were approved, Dave Sunde motioned, Gail Sunde, 2nd. There were no business meeting minutes for February as the Sweetheart Auction took place and much fun was had by all who attended.

Treasurers report was given by Cathy Kvistad, we are solvent.

Tryg Culp, Director, reported that he still has calendars that have not been picked up yet. He also reminded by Tryg that we have to feed certified weed seed free hay or pellets on the National Forest. The fine is substantial.

Tom Windsor, Trail Boss, reported that the Whistler Canyon trail clearing will have to be done from the bottom as there is still too much snow and ice at the top. The plan is to check out the bottom and see what course of action will be best for clearing out the trail.

Peggy Swanberg, Time Keeper, reminded us all to keep track of our volunteer hours and get them into her in a timely fashion. We also will need to keep track of actual miles of trail cleared. The Trail Boss will be in charge of reporting to Peggy.

Dave Sunde, Legislative Chair, attended Legislative Day in Olympia, reporting that the LNT tent was well attended with approximately 70 members. Thanks to Dave who stays up to speed on keeping us informed on topics that are important to us.

Bob Crowell, Assistant Trail Boss, gave a report on the Packing Clinic that took place in Tonasket at the CCC with 15 people in attendance, most of those being members.

The Bannon Mountain Packing Clinic on May 1-3, 2009 will include camping, trail clearing and riding along with clinic that should cover a lot of interest.

Saddle Cleaning at the Beck residence was attended by 5 members, it was reported that much fun was had by all, as well as having pizza for lunch.

The Chainsaw certification field portion will be done at the Bannon Mountain packing clinic.

Janet Culp, gave us a Baxter Black update, ticket sales are slow—get your tickets!. Susan Beck has taken on doing the decorations, all of those who would like to volunteer, you won't be turned away. We also need 60 dozen cookies baked for the reception afterwards, contact Janet with any questions.

2009 Budget Approval—motion to approve by Dave Sunde, and 2nd by Tryg Culp, so approved.

Dave Sunde motioned to approve Cathy Kvistad as the 2009 Treasurer, Tryg Culp 2nd, motion approved.

Bob Amundson graciously accepted the position of Newsletter Advertisement representative.

Peggy Swanberg motioned to approve a \$50.00 donation to the Tonasket Junior Rodeo, Susan Beck 2nd the motion, motion approved.

Sinlaheki Ladies ride is April 15, arrive at 9:00 and depart at 10.00 don't forget your parking permits.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Tryg, 2nd by Gail.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Crowell



Indoor Chainsaw Pre-Certification Safety Class

Twelve members of OVC attended the third annual indoor chainsaw safety refresher training Saturday, March 7th at the Tonasket Ranger District office in Tonasket. The 3-hour safety refresher is required of all Chapter members who plan to operate chainsaws or work as “swampers” on trail clearing projects on National Forest lands.

The class focused on a discussion of chainsaw hazards and mitigation measures as well as wide ranging discussions on safe chainsaw operating techniques for brushing, limbing, bucking and felling operations. New this year was a power point presentation developed locally specifically tailored to Back Country Horsemen and trail clearing operations in conditions likely to be encountered in Okanogan County.

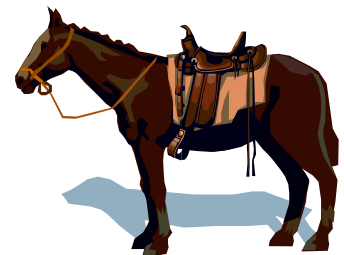
Chapter members who desire to be fully certified as chainsaw operators for Chapter projects conducted on Forest Service land must now demonstrate their proficiency in an outdoor field environment. A proficiency certification session will be conducted in conjunction with the Bannan Mountain Trailhead packing clinic, camp out and work party on May 1, 2 and 3, 2009. Members not able to attend that certification session will have another opportunity to certify at the Ferry County Chapter session to be conducted at the Lambert Creek Horse Camp on May 23, 2009. A final certification session will be conducted - if required - during the National Trails Day event at the Fourth of July trailhead on June 5, 6 and 7, 2009.

Questions regarding chainsaw certification should be directed to Trail Bosses Tom Windsor or Bob Crowell or Director,

Trygve Culp.

The members of OVBCH would like to extend condolences to Teresa Naylor in the loss of her brother.


Also condolences to Linda Osborne in the loss of her father.



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Advertising Rates

(Classifieds and Business Card Ads are free to members)

<u>1 MONTH:</u>	<u>6 MONTHS:</u>	<u>1 Year:</u>
1/4 page \$10.00	1/4 pg = \$8.00 pr month =44.00	1/4 pg= \$96.00
1/2 page \$15.00	1/2 pg= \$12.00 per month = \$72.00	1/2 pg= \$144.00
Business Card \$5.00	Business Card \$4.00 per month = \$24.00	Business Card \$44.00

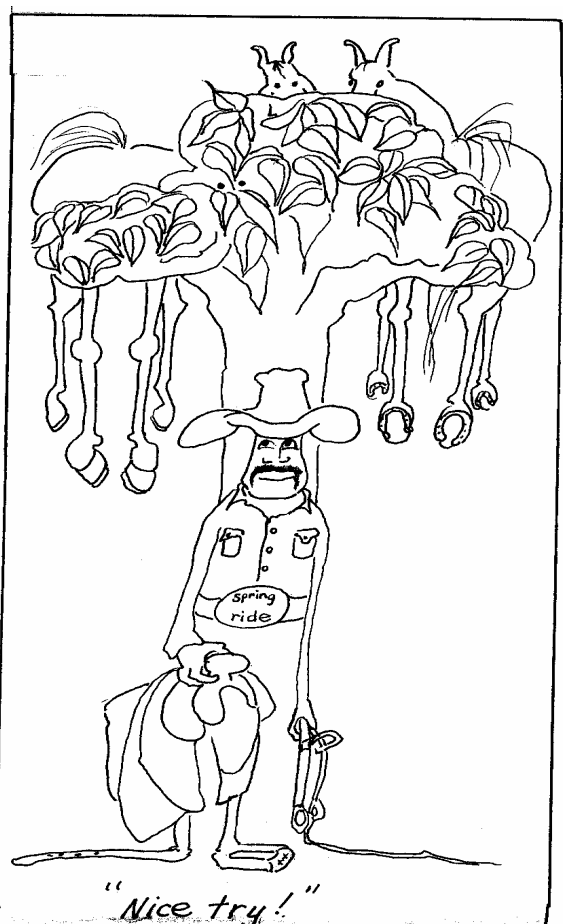
FIRST LADY'S DAY RIDE

This ride is coming up fast! Are you ready?

The location for the ride is the Sinlahekin and we will be parking at the south or lower end of the canyon. I don't know a better way to describe it but driving instructions are in your 2009 Year-book. Follow the instructions for "Lower Sinlahekin," and watch for the little round toilet house. It is on a siding road that connects back to the main road on both ends so trailer "turn-a-rounds" won't be an issue. Teresa Naylor will host the ride and just like always, arrive around 9am but be ready to ride by 10. Bring your lunch and whatever else you require to sustain yourself for a nice ride. It is expected the ride will be mostly level one and 3 to 4 hours long depending on how long we take to eat our lunch and talk.

This part is important. To park in the Sinlahekin you need a parking permit for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Normally you get one when you get hunting and fishing licenses but you can also purchase one. I think I would check with Lee Frank in Tonasket, Dave's Gun and Pawn in Riverside, Neal's in Okanogan and maybe on-line at the WDFW website. I haven't checked out the website so I'm not sure if you can purchase on-line. You will definitely need this pass if you plan to attend the camp-out in June. The manager will be visiting us so you might as well go ahead and buy it now.

Guys are welcome too, just be prepared for a "chick" thing!



2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Okanogan Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 812
Tonasket, Wa. 98855



To renew your membership with BCHW:

- Make changes to your info below if necessary. Mark changes by hand or use colored text for electronic changes.
- Sign the liability release (all members over 18)
- Attach payment (make checks out to your chapter)
- Turn application and payment in to your Chapter Treasurer

New Member Renewal - Membership number(s): _____

Adult's name(s): _____

Children's name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Legislative district (if known): 7 County: OKANOGAN

Basic Membership

- Single \$36.00
- Family \$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 A \$ _____

Chapter Name (or Independent):

Okanogan Valley

Chapter Dues

As of Jan. 1, 2008, Chapter Dues are \$10 _____

Additional Chapter Donation \$ _____

Subtotal B \$ _____

Grand Total (A+B) \$ _____

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.

Okanogan Valley Chapter
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington
Post Office Box 812
Tonasket, WA 98855

