



OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

JANUARY ISSUE

The President's Corner

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! Welcome to 2009. What a way to start a new year, sitting on my tractor and using my snow blower to clean the snow drifts off my driveway day after day, after day. I shouldn't be complaining, 6 months I wanted moisture for the pasture grass and look what I got. We're never happy.

I'm looking forward to another great year in the Chapter and BCHW. We have new things on the horizon as well as our favorite oldies. The Whistler Canyon Trailhead project is, was and will be a monumental step forward as a result of our new, 501c3 organization. After purchase of the property by Okanogan County, we are hoping to start work on developing the trailhead and the new trail to Mt. Hull. This project will, when completed, be used by a great many outdoor recreation enthusiast including equestrians, bikers, hikers and rock climbers.

This isn't an oldie and it isn't new to us either, but in April we again will be sponsoring Baxter Black at the PAC. Our very own Stan Kvistad will be opening for Baxter, having done this for him twice in the past. In addition, we will have western art by Okanogan Artists on display as well as other western themed displays. We will have the cookie/coffee reception after the show so you can visit with Baxter and purchase any books, tapes or other items that will be for sale. Four years ago the tickets were a sell-out so don't wait too long to purchase yours.

We do expect to hand out our 2009 Yearbook at the January business meeting so be sure to attend the meeting and pick up your book. It contains our 2009 event calendar as well as other helpful information so be sure to keep it handy for easy reference.

2009 will be a good year! Plan to participate in as much as you can, we like your company.

-Dave-

No Host Dinner

January 31st is the no host dinner at the Breadline in Omak. The dinner will start at 6 PM.
Please RSVP Gail Sunde.

2008 Christmas Party

Traveling wasn't the easiest for many of us, but 21 members were still able to challenge the snow and ice and make it to this year's Christmas party. Sundes made it over the pass but not up their driveway, Culps had no trouble "lugeing" down the hill, Obornes and Walters car-pooled and with a two vehicle attempt, Swanbergs exploded through drifts.

While past parties might have sported more members, the smaller group allowed everybody to sit in the circle for socializing and there was no lack of food on the potluck table. There was much discussion and refusals as to who should carve the turkey but Bob Crowell proved up to the task producing almost picture perfect slices.

Several people commented favorably on the stuffing so here is the recipe. Get a box of Mrs. Culbertson's seasoned stuffing and then follow the directions on the back of the box. The potluck variety was equal to 3 boxes of stuffing mix and when done according to the directions, seemed a bit dry so I added a 12 oz jar of Heinz roasted turkey gravy. Embarrassingly simple.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas.

Thank You!

A special "Thanks" to Teresa Naylor for updating and maintaining the Chapter's scrap book for two years! It is great to share the photo history and stories with others!

January Board Meeting: At the Windsor's home on Jan 19th at 1:00pm

Refreshments for General Business on Jan 21st

to be provided by Kyle Howell

January 2009

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Board Mtg @ Windsors @ 1pm	20	21 Business Mtg At Tonasket Senior Center	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 No Host Dinner @ Breadline @6:00pm

2009 Officers

President: Dave Swanberg **Vice President:** Gail Sunde **Director:** Tryg Culp **Alt Director:** Frank Osborne
Secretary: Sandra Walters **Treasurer:** Linda Parker **Legislative Chair:** Dave Sunde
Education Chair: Janet Logan **Trail Boss:** Tom Windsor **Volunteer Hours:** Peggy Swanberg
Newsletter Editor: Susan Beck **Historian:** Teresa Naylor

TRAIL BOSS REPORT

DECEMBER 2008

Here it is two days before the shortest day of the year and only 11 days before the end of 2008. Where did the time go? Why didn't I get all those things done in 2008 that I had planned to do?

We have spent a lot of time on Forest Plan Revision and Travel Management pertaining to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and the Colville National Forest this year. These activities are still ongoing and the Forest Service plans to have a draft Forest Plan out sometime in early 2010. The environmental extremists are putting a full court press on the Forest Service to turn all of the Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) in the Colville National Forest into Wilderness. I have been working hard for the last two plus years with other multiple use advocates of the forest to prevent this from happening. I think we will have some success in this effort, but I also think we will end up with the Colville Forest Supervisor recommending some of the IRA's for Wilderness designation. My feeling is that little or no additional wilderness recommendations will be made for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest located in Okanogan County. Only time will tell.

We had a preliminary meeting with the Highlands District, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding work accomplished this year on DNR land and projected projects for next year on DNR land in the Loomis Forest. The Highlands District Manager and his staff were very appreciative of the work we did on the Johnny Bell Trail and the Snowshoe Trail this year. We have agreed to formally "adopt" (for maintenance and repair) the Disappointment Trailhead and the trail from the trailhead to Johnny Bell Cabin and from the Johnny Bell Cabin NW to the Snowshoe Cabin. The upper portion of the Johnny Bell Trail from Cold Spring Campground to Johnny Bell Cabin will be rerouted in 2009 to make it accessible to foot, horse and snowmobile traffic. This portion of the trail is not accessible to horse traffic now due to portions of the trail going through swampy, boggy ground.

The following is a report by Assistant Trail Boss, Bob Crowell, on the meeting hosted by Okanogan County Commissioners on December 15 with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor and her Forest Plan Revision Staff.

On December 15, 2008 a meeting was hosted by Okanogan County at the Okanogan Fairgrounds Agriplex Annex at 6:00 PM. This meeting was initiated by Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan County Commissioner, to update interested citizens on United States Forest Service (USFS) planning activities regarding wilderness designation for roadless areas in the Okanogan-Wenatchee national Forest. The meeting was lightly attended (probably due to severe weather) but several notable officials were present. They were:

Becki Heath, Forest Supervisor

Margaret Hartzell, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader

Debbie Kelly, Forest Plan Revision Team Member

Mark Morris, Tonasket District Ranger
Jennifer Zbyszewski, Acting Methow District Ranger
Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan County Commissioner
Bud Hover, Okanogan County Commissioner
Joel Kretz, WA State 7th District Representative
Trygve Culp, Backcountry Horsemen of America National Board Director

In addition to Trygve, four other members of our BCHW Chapter attended this meeting. (Tom Windsor, Dave and Gail Sunde and Bob Crowell)

This meeting lasted about two hours with updates on the forest planning process, future planning activities and some complaints from people who felt they had not been successful in dealing with the USFS planning activities in the past. Below are some highlights pertinent to Backcountry Horsemen:

The USFS only recommends additional wilderness areas as part of the Forest Plan Revision process. Becki Heath will be the decision maker on the Forest Plan Revision, but she will coordinate with Rick Brazell, Colville National Forest Supervisor, on those roadless areas located on the two forest boundaries.

The revised forest plan draft for public comment is due in the spring of 2010.

The Final Revised Forest Plan is due in 2011.

An area can be recommended for wilderness through the Forest Plan Revision process, but only the US Congress can designate an area as wilderness.

A private citizen or organization can lobby Congress at any time for designating an area as wilderness. (As happened in the recently designated Wild Sky Wilderness)

The Provincial Advisory Committee (PAC) of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest did not deem any roadless areas on the Okanogan portion of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest as suitable additions to the wilderness system. NOTE: The PAC role is advisory only to the Forest Supervisor. The PAC was established by the Northwest Forest Plan (Clinton Administration product) and did not originally to the Okanogan National Forest east of the Methow and Chewuch Rivers.

Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) planning mandated by a Dale Bosworth (past USFS chief) era Federal Regulation will begin in the spring of 2009. This will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) effort so public involvement, a draft plan with comment period and a final plan will be produced. This effort seems to be somewhat mis-named as the plan will address ALL motorized wheeled vehicles and all roads. Our use of pickups and horse trailers on and near designated roads will be affected by this OHV rule. We need to stay tuned.

Mark Morris, Tonasket District Ranger, will make a presentation to the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding travel planning on January 20, 2009 at 1:45 PM in the Okanogan County Commissioners Hearing Room. We need as many Chapter members as possible to attend this presentation.

Tom Windsor, Trail Boss (826-4595)
Bob Crowell, Assistant Trail Boss (826-9581)

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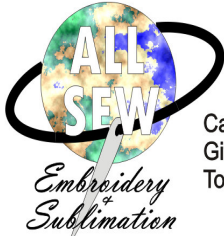


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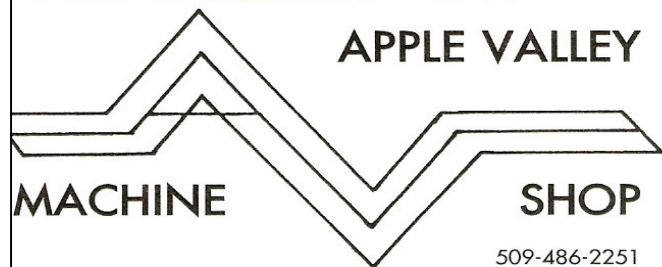
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BCHW
Your “TRAIL TO THE FUTURE”

The Combined General Membership Meeting, Leadership Training 1 and 2, Auction, Dinner and Dance at Kittitas Valley Event Center (fairgrounds) in Ellensburg will be held **Friday, MARCH 19 TO SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2009**

This will be BCHW’s first combined LEADERSHIP, ANNUAL General Membership MEETING , and Celebration.

The 3 day event begins Friday with the BCHW Board of Directors meeting, preceded by a Potluck dinner in Teanaway Hall.

Leadership Training Part 1 and 2 will be held Saturday morning and Sunday morning. The General Membership Meeting will convene after the Awards Ceremony on Saturday followed by the annual auction ,dinner and dance.

Plan to attend now and participate in the weekend activities. Visit with old friends, make new friends and enjoy the fun and camaraderie, support BCHW, get up- to- date information at the General Membership Meeting. Reservations for accommodations, and reservations for the Dinner & Dance are recommended. For your convenience, we are offering a discount for “Early Bird” reservations.

Republic, Wa. 99166 Marked for: 2009Annual Meeting Reservation

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REGISTRATION FORM

Dinner & Dance

The dance band is called STANDING ROOM ONLY (SRO) last year they rocked.

“Early Bird” Prime Rib and Chicken Combo Dinners-#_____x \$25_____

Early Bird Reservations includes five Bucket Raffle Tickets

Prime Rib and Chicken Combo- ”No Reserve” #_____x \$28_____

There are twelve(12) round tables that will circle the dance floor that can be reserved for a group of 8 people- # of tables_____x \$5_____ on a first come, first paid basis.

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Camping is available at the KVEC Campground at the following rates:

“Early Bird” RV Camping, Full Service # of days_____x \$ 15_____

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TOTAL COST \$_____

Return this form and remittance not later than Feb. 21, 2009 for “Early Bird” Reservations to: Gail Downs

2009 Annual Meeting Reservation

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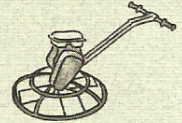
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