



The President's Corner

As I sit here and write this article on Memorial Day I think how lucky we are to be able to enjoy this long holiday weekend, due in part to the armed forces around the world serving and defending our country. We are so very lucky, for more reasons than we can appreciate.

Speaking of serving, we have two major events that come up each year that have a major effect on our organization and our mission statement. They are National Trails Day on June 6th and National Public Lands Day on Sept. 26th. Both relate strongly to our mission statement of keeping trails on public lands open for horses and mules.

We have a major weekend event scheduled for June 5, 6, and 7, to celebrate National Trails Day at the 4th of July Trailhead. We will not only be working on trail clearing, but will also be installing highline poles and assembling and installing picnic tables and fire rings at 2 new campsites. Friday and Saturday will be work days with a potluck dinner on Sat. evening after work. On Sunday there will be a trail ride on the trails we cleared over the weekend. This will be a FUN weekend and a productive weekend by the creation of 2 more camping spots, camping over night using our new highlines and enjoying a social event/potluck on Sat. evening.

We can use all the help we can get over the weekend, even if you can only come up for one day. Remember, the more help we have the easier and more enjoyable it is for all. Hope to see you there.

Peg asked me to remind the ladies of the camp-out coming up at the end of this month. If you were not able to attend the packing clinics earlier this year, this would be a good time to come up and see how to establish a highline, what equipment you will need and knots to know in order to highline your horse.

In other news, the County applied for and received a grant to build the Whistler Canyon trailhead on Highway 97. The funds will be available for construction after Oct. 1st 2009. With any luck, we hope to be using the trailhead this time next year.

In addition to the 4th of July trailhead improvements, we have received highline poles, picnic tables and fire rings for 2 more camp sites and a stock water trough for the Bannon Mtn. trailhead. We will be scheduling another FUN party in the near future to setup these 2 new campsites. Keep tuned.

Wed. 6-17 we will discuss and vote on what fundraiser we want to do for our Chapter in 2010. If you are interested in the future of our Chapter you need to attend the meeting and let your voice be heard.

Till then, hope to see you on the trail.

Dave

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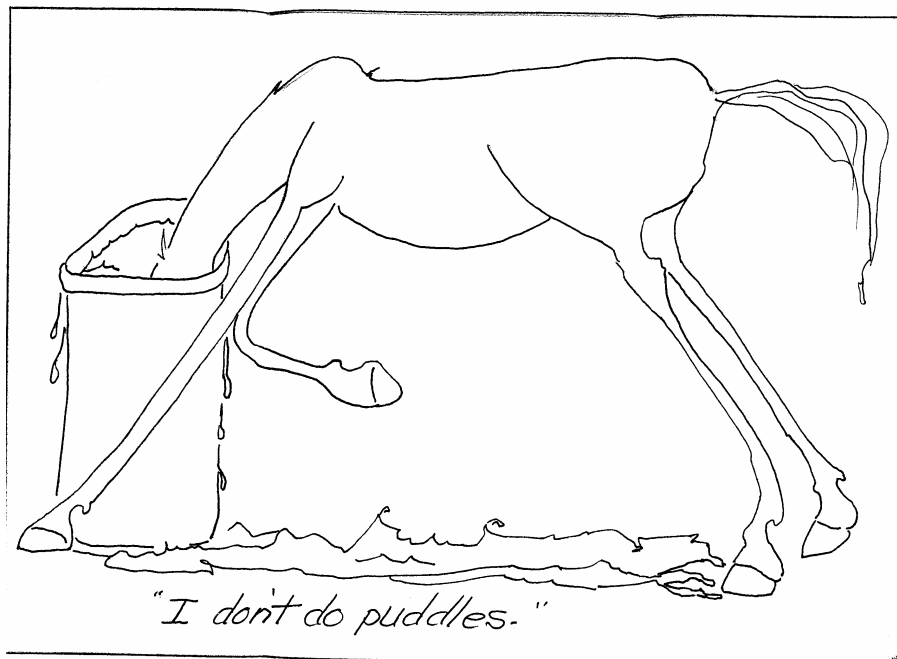
Beaver Creek Ladies Ride ~ June 18th

Get your car pool plans together and share a ride to Beaver Creek over on the Methow side. Susan Lagsdin of the Methow Chapter will host this ride and it will be generally in the same area as the Methow Chapter Spring Ride, minus the crowds. The ride will be mostly a level one with some hills. Nothing difficult or scary though.

Susan is planning about a 2 hour ride, break for lunch and then 2 hours back to the trailhead. There is a restroom and horse water at the trailhead and as usual arrive at 9:00a.m. but be ready to ride by 10:00 a.m.

To get to Beaver Creek Trailhead, head to Twisp over Highway 20. Go over Loup Loup Pass and down the other side. I don't know exactly how many miles, but I suspect that Beaver Creek Road is about 6-8 miles from the top of the pass. Watch for a road on the right marked Beaver Creek and turn right. The trailhead is about another 7-8 miles up Beaver Creek Road on the right hand side right after you go over a narrow, one lane bridge.

This is a beautiful ride, hope to see you there. And ladies only on this one please. If you have any questions, call Peggy Swanberg, 509-486-1107 or email at davenpeg@gdmail.net



Welcome to New Members!

Michael Alvarado

Linda Longmire

May Board Meeting: At the Crowell home on the 15th at 7:00pm

General Meeting June 17th at the Tonasket Senior Center

TRAIL BOSS REPORT

MAY-JUNE 2009

The Bannon Mt. trail clearing, packing clinic and trail ride was held at the Bannon Mt. Trailhead on 1-3 May. A trail was cleared and marked from the trailhead to the water trough located near the road approximately ¼ mile south of the trailhead. Additionally, several miles of trails were cleared and are now accessible to horses, hikers and ATV's. Dave Swanberg and his crew also installed trail sign posts at several intersections and now there is a complete signage system throughout the trail complex.

We had 13 members on the work party, 14 members on the trail ride and 12 members for the packing clinic; a good turnout and productive week end. Thanks to Bob Crowell for the shoe replacement demonstration on a well mannered stallion at the trailhead.

National Trails Day is June 6 and we have a full slate of activities scheduled at the 4th of July Trailhead for 5, 6, and 7 June. We will be installing fire pit rings, picnic tables and highline posts at the trailhead in addition to clearing the Cabin Trail/Antoine Trail for the chapter ride scheduled Sunday 7 June. With time permitting we will also clear the trail to the Roggow Cabin and beyond on the south side trail. The Oroville Gazette will send a reporter to the trailhead to take photos and interview members. The Omak Chronicle is unable to send a reporter to the trailhead because of high school graduation on Friday and Saturday, but will print an article with pictures taken by Chapter Members the following week.

Additional activities for June include a ladies ride on the 18th at Beaver Creek in the Methow (Peggy Swanberg 486-1107), Loup Loup Chapter ride on the 20th (Sandra Walters 826-5372) or(Linda Osborne 826-5767) and a ladies camp out and trail ride at the Blue Lake Campground in the Sinlahekin Valley on 26-28 (Peggy Swanberg 486-1107)

NOTE: Those rides designated as "Ladies Rides" are for ladies only. The designated ladies trail boss needs to have BCHW waiver sheets available for signature by any non-BCHW participants.

See you on the trails!

Tom Windsor, Trail Boss



June 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 <i>National Trails Day 4th of July Trailhead Work Party</i>	6 NTD <i>4th of July Trailhead Work Party & Potluck</i>
7 <i>5th of July Trail Ride</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>BCH Directors Mtg</i>
14	15 <i>Board Meeting @ Crowell's</i>	16	17 <i>General Business Mtg @ Tonasket Sr. Ctr.</i>	18 <i>Ladies Ride @ Beaver Creek</i>	19	20 <i>So. Loup Loup Trail Ride</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26 <i>Ladies Camp Out at Blue Lake on 26th, 27th and 28th.</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

Lady's Camp-Out Blue Lake, Sinlahekin Friday, Saturday, Sunday ~ June 26,27, and28th

It still seems quite sometime away, but it is time to start thinking about what we want to do and what we will need. I have a few ideas, but if anybody can think of something better, just let me know.

We will be camping at the far north end of Blue Lake in the established campground. There is a toilet and I think some established fire rings. I plan on arriving at the camp site about 1pm or so on Friday and will try to get some signage out on the road. So far there is horse water about 1/4 mile away in the creek and I will check that is still there prior to our camp-out. If it is dry, you will need to make provisions for water for your animals. Be prepared to high-line your horse, bring weed free hay, although it does not have to be certified and be prepared to do a thorough clean-up after your horse. For horse manure, the best thing to do is bring a couple of black plastic bags and take the stuff back home with you.

For breakfast and lunch, please plan on doing your own thing. For dinner Friday evening I was thinking we would do the community spaghetti pot and on Saturday, barbecue steaks if we can round up things to barbeque on. Side dishes would all be potluck, beverages are BYOB. Any lady that cannot come for the whole weekend or cannot camp or even cannot do the rides, just plan on coming up for whatever part of the weekend you can manage.

Directions to the campground are in the 20090 Yearbook. This is an RSVP event so please let me know if you are going to come and for what part of the weekend, it not all. I want to be able to keep you updated on any additional plans or change of plans.

You will need a WDFW parking permit and I am sure there will be somebody coming to confirm everybody is up to snuff.

PLEASE RSVP to Peggy Swanberg, 509-486-1107 or davepeg@gdmail.net. Lay guests are always welcome too!

Peggy



Lady's Ride, Sno-Park May 6th

We were a small, compatible group of three, Teresa Naylor as our leader, Sandra Walters and me, Peggy Swanberg. We traveled light and fast through cool weather, sunny weather, rainy weather and a little snowy weather. And it was one of the best rides so far this year. Teresa knows places to go so we left the sno-park parking lot and headed up the dirt road at the end of the parking lot. From the end of that road we picked up a trail that took us to what we think was probably up Oberg Road. About 1/2 mile up Oberg Road we took a left and went quite a ways down an old road before it dead-ended into trails with unknown destinations. We tried to find the trail back to the general area of the sno-park but we ran short of time and thus had to just ride our original route in reverse back to the trailers. It looks like this will be a ride for another day when we allow time for exploring. Thank you Teresa. You always put on an excellent ride.

Director's Report ~June 2009

It is almost June, school will be out in two weeks, the days are longer and the sun is shining occasionally, but it snowed here in the Highlands last Tuesday night. What on earth is with this weather? I look west out over the Valley toward the Tiffanies and wonder – will we be able to ride Clark Ridge much before mid-July this year? The snow is sure hanging on up there. Enough griping already!

There is a lot going on at the BCHW level this month. At the summer Board of Directors meeting in Ellensburg, the Board will be considering a number of motions, resolutions and policy positions that are of importance. They include a resolution from Okanogan Valley Chapter directing that the membership structure and dues be re-examined in light of decreasing membership across the state. I support this resolution – it is time to re-evaluate our membership structure and move it along towards that of other similar non-profit organizations; concurrently, the Board needs to consider a dues change that reflects the declining membership and economic realities that we are facing locally and nationally. Another resolution, this one from the Capitol Riders Chapter, urges that a Washington State Right to Ride bill be introduced in the 2010 legislature. I also support this resolution – we are fortunate in the Okanogan to have a good working relationship with the various State land management agencies; however, such is not the case around the entire state – state level R2R legislation just might be the answer to those woes faced by equestrians in other areas.

Another important policy decision to be considered by the Board concerns restructuring of the Education committee to reflect the expanding role that education plays - both internally to BCHW and externally to the entire equestrian community and the general public as well. Until now, the Education Committee's primary responsibility has been the Leave No Trace program. As an organization we have done that mission very well and we need to continue to do so. We need to duplicate those results in a number of other areas including: horsemanship, packing, the new Trail Classification System, saw certification, trail maintenance and Leadership Training. The BCHW Executive Committee has formulated a revised "charter" for the Education Committee incorporating those changes that will be presented to the full Board for consideration and acceptance. I support the proposed revisions to the mission and structure of the Education Committee.

Finally, the Board will take up implementation of the of those provisions of the Trail Classification System (TCS) that BCHA is charged with as part of the negotiated settlement with the U. S. Forest Service in our recently concluded lawsuit challenging adoption of the TCS. The task includes BCHW validating all of the Trail Management Objectives assigned to every U.S.F.S. trail within the State. It sounds like a daunting task, but it should be fairly straightforward. We review the newly assigned management objective and compare it to the historic use. If, in the past, a trail was constructed or maintained for equestrian use, that use cannot be changed by the agency without open, public involvement in the decision process. The lack of funds for maintenance cannot be considered as a reason for omitting equestrian use. Simply a matter of sitting down with historic use information and comparing then with now... If no record of an "open, public process" exists for which a decision was made, we will need to bring this to the attention of the Forest Service. Pursuant to the judge's decision, the Forest Service must then conduct such an "open, public process" or change their decision regarding that specific trail. Sounds simple enough doesn't it?

Stay tuned – we'll see how this deal plays out over the next few year.

Until next month, happy trails.

Trygve Culp



Okanogan Valley Chapter, BCHW
Draft Strategic Goals

This is a draft summary of the Chapter Strategic Goals and is submitted for information and comments by Chapter membership.

The Chapter Strategic Goals Committee met at Swanberg's residence on January 6, 2009 and developed the DRAFT STRATEGIC GOALS for the Chapter as shown below. Members present at the committee meeting were Dave and Peggy Swanberg, Dave and Gail Sunde, Bob Crowell and Tom Windsor.

The committee looked at the Okanogan Valley Chapter mission and objectives listed in the front of the 2009 Chapter Yearbook and identified the following areas for development of strategic goals. It was determined that the time frame for accomplishment of strategic goals should be 3-5 years in the future and that goals should be reviewed and updated annually.

The 4 areas identified by the committee for strategic goals are:

MEMBERSHIP: : Increase membership by 10 %

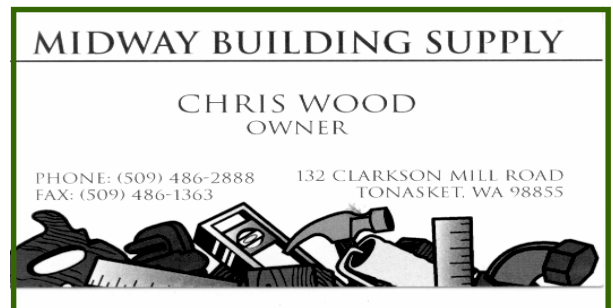
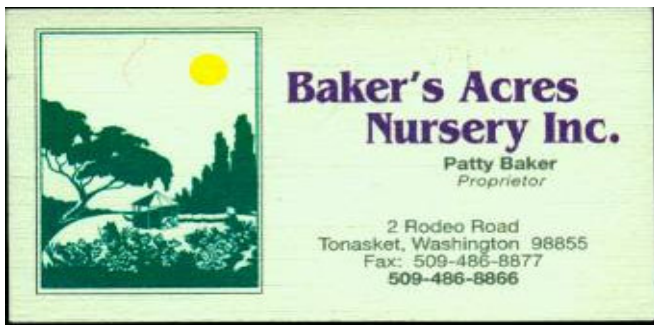
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES: Increase participation of membership in chapter activities By 40%

LIAISON WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: Meet with officials and agencies at least semi-annually

PUBLICITY: Submit post event reports to news media on Chapter major events and activities

This is a summary of the strategic goals. If anyone would like a complete list of the draft goals showing implementation methods, I can e-mail you a copy or provide you a hard copy at a chapter meeting or send you a copy by U.S. Mail. Comments on the draft goals can be sent to Tom Windsor (826-4595) or e-mail at twindsor40@msn.com.

Tom Windsor
Committee Chairman



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1/4 page \$10.00
 1/2 page \$15.00
 Business Card \$5.00

6 MONTHS:

1/4 pg = \$8.00 pr month =44.00
 1/2 pg= \$12.00 per month = \$72.00
 Business Card \$4.00 per month = \$24.00

1 Year:

1/4 pg= \$96.00
 1/2 pg= \$144.00
 Business Card \$44.00

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

