



The President's Corner

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR

May, 2009

Who says that the winter months are the slow time of the year? With the Whistler Canyon project, the Annual meeting and the Baxter Black performance, the time has just flown. With those behind me, now I'm looking forward to getting out and accomplishing some trail maintenance work. How about you?

For an update on Whistler Canyon, our Chapter has applied for a RTP Grant through BCHW to apply to the major maintenance work needed on the trail from the new trailhead to the BLM property. This will be for work we do 2010 and 2011. Okanogan County has applied for an RCO Grant to construct the new trailhead at Highway 97 and this work will also be done in 2010 and 2011. Negotiations are completed with the adjacent property owner for an easement through the NE corner of his property. Acquiring that easement will negate the need to relocate the trail over BLM property and eliminate their lengthy paperwork requirement.

I want to thank all those members who assisted in helping put on the Baxter Black performance. Too many names to mention, but the cookies were delicious and in abundance, the stage looked great and the whole thing came off without the proverbial "hitch." Unfortunately, attendance at Baxter's performance was less than expected, so we have decided to cancel Wylie and the Wild West for a 2010 performance as he required a large nonrefundable deposit this year.

This brings up the need for some other type of fundraising. The Budget Committee will be meeting in the near future to discuss options and make suggestions for recommendations for other types of fund raising. If you have a good idea, let me know.

That's my news. Hope to see you at our next function.

Dave

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REPORT YOUR HOURS!!!!!!!

If you received my e-mail asking for your volunteer hours for the Baxter Black fundraising and you haven't responded, now is the time.

For those of you that did not get my e-mail asking for your volunteer hours because I didn't know of your contribution or you don't have e-mail, this is your reminder to either e-mail me or call me with your time.

For the cookie bakers, reasonable amount of time to bake the cookies and a reasonable value of the ingredients is considered volunteer time and a dollar donation. And if you had to make a special trip to deliver them, your round trip travel time and mileage is also recorded as volunteer time.

You might not care about collecting this time for your personal accumulation, but it is about keeping track of the time/money we donate in order to be a 501c3 organization.

It does take a bit of your time to track the information, but your timeliness I doing so helps the rest of the volunteers that have agreed to record and track this information from the Chapter level through to the reporting to BCHW and the BCHA.

Thanks so much!

Peggy Swanberg, Volunteer Hours Coordinator



Sinlahekin Ladies Ride ~ April 15th

This was the first of a series of summer rides for the Gals. Teresa Naylor lead the charge and with seven of us trailing behind. It was a grand mix of fresh horses, green horses, guests and one guy. All did well and the only near mishap was "the guy" when his horse jumped the creek. We almost witnessed a splash-down.

The weather was almost perfect, a little bit of a chilly windat times though. Spring flowers were starting to show and the scenery from out view behind Blue Lake was worthy of photos. Thank you Theresa for a good ride and a nice time with friends.

Theresa will also be leading our next ladies ride at the Highland Sno-Park. Watch for specifics in another article.

May Board Meeting: At the Windsor home on the 18th at 7:00pm



General Meeting May 20th!

May 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 <i>Bannon Mt.</i> <i>Trail clearing</i>	2 <i>Bannon Mt.</i> <i>Trail Ride</i>
3 <i>Bannon Mt.</i> <i>Packing Clinic</i>	4	5	6 <i>Ladies Ride</i> <i>Highlands Sno Park</i>	7	8	9
10 <i>Mothers Day</i>	11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Chilwist</i> <i>Spring Ride</i>
17	18	19	20 <i>Ladies Ride</i> <i>Tunk Creek Area</i>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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-May 2009

On 9 April three chapter members cleared the trail from Fish Lake to Scotch Creek. (Thank you to Bob Crowell, Lynn Kennedy and Tom Windsor) The trail is now clear for horse and foot traffic. However, there is a considerable amount of brush along the trail and some boulders in the trail which will not hinder hikers or horsemen. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has a grant to do some work on the trail between Fish Lake and Scotch Creek Trailheads this summer. Jim Olson has advised me that most of the money will be spent on that 3 ½ mile section of the trail from Fish Lake to Doheny Basin located near the old homestead. I have proposed to Dale Swedberg and Jim Olson that the portion of the trail crossing the Schalow Pond spillway be rerouted and placed on the old road which crosses the stream about 200 yards below the pond. On Thursday, 30 April I will conduct a walk through of this portion of the trail with Olson and Swedberg to pitch my recommendation to them.

On 18 April 10 chapter members and 5 non-members participated in the Scotch Creek Trail Ride. Two women rode all the way through from Scotch Creek to Fish Lake and after lunch the remainder of the riders rode back to Scotch Creek along the ridge on the west side of the valley. It was a beautiful, warm day and a great ride except for a brisk wind on the return trip. There were no mishaps except for Steve McKinney's horse bolting when several Huns flew up in front of it.

The Bannon Mt. trail clearing, trail ride and packing clinic will take place at the Bannon Mt. Trailhead on Friday-Sunday May 1, 2 & 3. We will clear trails on Friday, do the trail ride on Saturday and conduct the packing clinic on Sunday. ATV's will be used on Friday for clearing trail. Horses and/or foot workers can also participate in the trail clearing on Friday. We will need chainsaws, loppers, pole saws and tools to help Dave Swanberg put up several more kiosk signs. We're looking forward to providing a lot of "hands on" practice during the packing clinic to include some work on packing a saddle horse with enough supplies for an overnight trip. Some members plan to camp at the trailhead Friday and Saturday night and a potluck is scheduled for Saturday after the trail ride. Bring a dish to share with the group.

There will be a ladies ride out of the Highlands Snowpark on Wednesday 6 May. Contact Teresa Naylor (486-2009) for more information on this ride. See the 2009 Yearbook for directions to the Highlands Sno-Park. On Saturday 16 May Stan Kvistad will lead a spring ride in the Chiliwist which will be on Level 1 & 2 trails. For additional information on this ride contact Stan at 826-1421. A ladies ride will be held in the Tunk Creek area on Wednesday 20 May. For additional information on this ride contact Sandra Walters at 826-5372.

Hope to see you on the trail at the Methow Valley BCH Spring Ride 24-26 April.

Tom Windsor (826-4595)

Trail Boss



Director's Report ~ April 2009

The snow is finally gone from the Highlands and things are looking green and beautiful after a long, long winter. I took the snow plow off the tractor about mid month and put the bucket and mower back on thinking its time to start "farming" in earnest. Is it just me or have others of you noticed that there is not enough time in an hour /day/week/month to get any of the things you think are important accomplished? My driveway has still got dried ruts, the fences are still sagging and the pastures are not mowed... But from the BCHW stand point, it seems like we've got an awful lot done in April.

Locally, we accomplished a whole lot during the past month at Whistler Canyon. Although donations have slowed, we are nearly two thirds of the way to our \$50,000 goal to help the Forest Service purchase the trailhead property from Okanogan County. The old footpath from the new trailhead location to the private land that adjoins BLM land above the quarry is brushed and logged out. Finally, we have negotiated with the private landowner to purchase an easement from him that will allow unfettered access to public lands forever and are hopeful that funding to purchase the easement is forthcoming.

At the state level, the Board of Directors, vis-à-vis the Executive Committee, approved a Public Lands Committee position paper to support the use of mechanized equipment within the Glacier Peak Wilderness to replace a stock bridge over the Suiattle River on the Pacific Crest Trail. This is a huge deal in my mind – the PCT has been essentially closed to pack and saddle stock for the last 6 years because the bridge had been washed out in an impassible spot for livestock. Even so, some members of the Board have, in the past, opposed Forest Service efforts to use mechanized equipment to replace the bridge. Common sense seemed to prevail this time, though and the position paper and a resolution to BCHA concerning the bridge replacement were approved. The BCHW Board also approved – with some reservations – a resolution from the Back Country Horsemen of Alabama for BCHA to be designated the national equestrian organization for trail related matters on public lands.

The real "biggy" for BCHW, though, was the sponsorship of the BCHA National Board of Directors meeting at Fort Worden just north of Port Townsend. As your BCHA Director, I was in attendance but I want to say that BCHW did itself proud with the quality of the event. The meetings came off without a hitch; the facilities were great; despite the fact that tofu was served as an option for every meal, the meals were good; our LNT crew put on a display that truly reflects why BCHW leads the nation in its' LNT efforts; the nightly entertainment (our own Stan Kvistad) was the featured entertainer at the banquet on the last night was very good – all in all a very good and productive meeting.

The month of May promises to be just as busy – I hope to see you out on the trails.

Trygve Culp



General Business Meeting Minutes for April 15th, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Swanberg at 7:00p.m., with 14 members present. Welcome to Terri Barker who joined OVBCH as of this meeting.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Treasurers report was given by Dave Swanberg, we are solvent. Directors Report was also given by Dave Swanberg. BCHW 2009 was \$23,000 above budget. Trail Boss report was given by Bob Crowell, trail clearing was done on Whistler Canyon March 27, from BLM property to Judd Memorial sign. On the March 28th, clearing from BLM property to the property. More work required at a later date. On March 29th, Tom W. and Bob C. cleared the north end of Blue Lake and the south from Headquarters. April 7th, rock blasting took place on the Sinlahekin Trail, with George Young showing a few how it was done. April 9 Tom W., Bob C., and Lynn Kennedy cleared the east end of Fish Lake past the Dougherty Homestead. Peggy Swanberg talked about changes made to reporting volunteer hours and is waiting for new follow-up forms.

It was reported that 18 of OVBCH members attended the BSCHW Annual meeting, much fun was had by all as told to us at the meeting. A congratulations to Dave Swanber, Lopper Award; Peggy Swanberg, Overall Volunteer Hours Coordinator! OVBCH Educational display won 1st place, this is the second year running for this award.

Discussion about the Baxter Black performance fundraiser for this year: It did not go near as well as anticipated. 246 tickets were sold with 314 unsold tickets. Due to lack of ticket sales Baxter offered to lower his fee by only charging approximately half of his original fee. Overall sales was \$2980.00, with approximately \$2,000 in expenses leaving about \$980 in profit. The evening before the performance the group which was to provide the Indian Taco Feed cancelled, Janet Culp contacted the Corner Bistro in Omak, which provided tacos and chili. A big thanks to the Corner Bistro.

The May 30th No Host Dinner will be held at the Corner Bistro in Omak instead Of the Koala St. Grill. Please make an effort to come and enjoy great food! Dinner will be at 7:00 As they are closing the doors to the public to serve us.



The Membership decided against having Wylie and the Wild West for the 2010 fundraiser.

Peggy S. reported that there were 8 people who participated on the Sinlahekin Ladies ride, with Steve McKinney being the only gentleman to attend, they had a great time.

Scotch Cree ride, April 18th, Bannon May 1—3. May 1 trail clearing. May 2, trail ride; Arrive at 9:00 depart at 10.00. Packing clinic to start at approximately 9:00a.m.

REMEMBER!! Certified feed for Bannon Mtn.

OVCBCH has agreed to help out with the LNT demonstration for 6th graders at Ford Lake May 28, 2009 from 12:30 to 4:00.

The Chiliwist ride will be May 16th.

Congratulations to George Young who won the stain glass raffle a the Baxter Black performance

Meeting adjourned at 8:18p.m.

Dawn Crowell

Chiliwist Ride ~ May 16th



The ride will convene at the paper boxes about one mile from the intersection of Old Hwy 97 at 9:00a.m., and be ready to ride out at 10:00a.m. Parking will

Be on State Game Dept. property, so you will need a permit.

We ride Hoshier Mtn, which is open, cross country riding and should be scenic with some good views. The sunflowers are coming on strong, so pack a

Lunch and we will ride out at 10:00a.m.

The ride will be about 10 to 15 miles in length.

See you on the trail, Stan

WHY HAVE LADIES RIDES?

Well, first of all, they are fun and the gals really enjoy getting to know each other and sharing life experiences that are of more interest to women. My Dad would call it a real hen party. But that is no the ultimate reason for the rides.

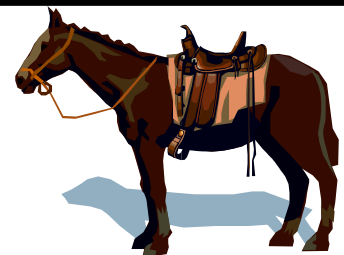
My ultimate reason for starting these rides was to encourage the women to know how to deal with truck/trailer issues, emergency horse issues and even flat tires, should the need arise. I am always reminded of the serious injury suffered by Francis Gregory and his life depended on Denny being able to leave him behind and take on the task of riding out of the backcountry on her own. We all need to improve on those skills should there ever be a need.

So, although I usually end my newsletter article saying guys are welcome to come too, please keep in mind that the reason for this is for you to give support to your lady as she takes on responsibilities that you would normally do. We try to keep the rides to places that are easily accessible, once parking and encourage a learning atmosphere with no pressure that is sometime not present when we have the regular chapter rides. We have all taken 30 minutes to get our trailer "just right" so when any of you start this for the first time on your own, remember that most of us have been there and know the anxiety of not being able to do it while the critical panel is watching. We are here for your support. Get ready to give it a try at the next ladies ride on May 6th.

Peggy Swanberg



The members of OVBCH would like to extend condolences to Cathy Kvistad on the loss of her Mother



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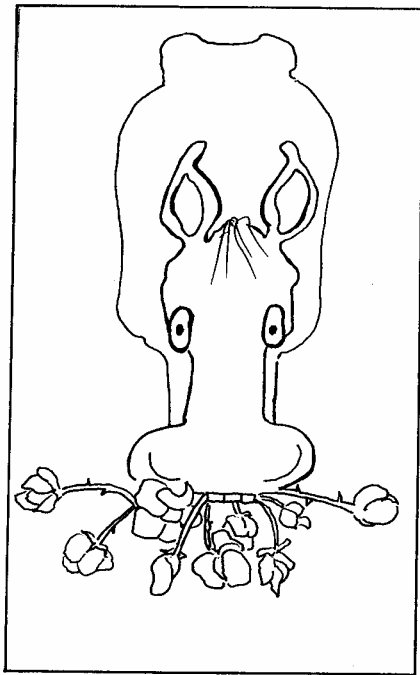
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Advertising Rates

(Classifieds and Business Card Ads are free to members)

1 MONTH:

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

