



**OKANOGAN VALLEY
CHAPTER
P.O. Box 812
Tonasket, WA 98855**

2012
YEARBOOK

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON
And
OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER
MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various governmental and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage new members in OVC and BCHW.
6. OVC shall at no time conduct any activity which will jeopardize the BCHW current non-profit status or qualifications as a charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

New and Renewal Memberships

We now offer the option to join BCHW or renew your state membership on-line using your credit card or existing Pay-Pal account. Go to the BCHW website and click on "Join." There is also the new option of a lifetime membership. With the ease of payment, we hope you will consider moving from the standard membership to one of the optional memberships.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PLEASE READ!

How is your world? It's probably busy without enough time or money. So as your new president, I've got a good self-cure therapy. Get your ole horse or mule out of the corral and go for a ride or come and help work on the trails.

This year we have some great rides and work parties scheduled so check your calendar and let's go riding! Now, don't you feel better already?

Let's make 2012 a great year and have lots of fun and clear lots of trails. Call me any time if you have a question or a problem and we will keep our mission statement going.

Thank-you,

Stan

OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER
Ride, Meeting and Event Information
For
2011 Event Calendar

Note 1: Okanogan Valley Chapter DOES NOT sponsor the events identified in italics.

Note 2: Unless specified otherwise, all rides and other activities meet at 9:00am and commence at 10:00am. **ALL WORK PARTIES COMMENCE AT 9:00AM.**

Note 3: Unless otherwise noted, Winter Chapter Officer's Board Meetings begin at 1pm. and the Summer Officer's Board Meetings begin at 7pm.

Note 4: Unless otherwise noted, all monthly Business Meetings are held at the Tonasket Senior Center at 7pm.

Note 5: All scheduled rides and events are subject to change. Please attend the monthly meetings, refer to the newsletter or the website, or call the event sponsor shown in the Yearbook for current information.

Note 6: All events shown in bold lettering on the Event Calendar pages are events that qualify for volunteer hours.

OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

Ride Rules and Etiquette

1. **Dogs** are not permitted at any Chapter sponsored trail ride.
2. **Stallions** are not permitted on Chapter sponsored trail ride.
3. **Horses** known to be “kickers” must be marked with a red ribbon in their tail when they arrive at Chapter activity.
4. **All riders** must check in with the trail guide when arriving for a ride and must check out with the trail guide before leaving for home.
5. **The trail guide** will brief all riders on the known trail conditions at the outset of the ride.
6. **The trail guide** or his or her designee must carry a first-aid kit adequate for the group.
7. **For safety** and accountability, riders must stay with the main body of the group. The trail guide should lead the ride.
8. **Do not run** your horse in or around the main group of riders. Do not run up to the group.
9. **Non-members** riding on Chapter sponsored rides must read and sign a liability release.
10. **Remove** any manure, hay or trash from the trailhead and pack it home.

TRAIL CONDITIONS AND RIDE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

LEVEL I: Easy, well maintained trails with few, if any, obstacles (large rocks, logs, debris, bogs, standing water, bridges, turnpikes or puncheon), steep pitches or prolonged grades. Trail tread is native surface with little or no surface rock; horses need not be shod. Good for new or inexperienced, green, young or older horses not in the best condition. Example: Most closed native surfaced Forest Service roads west of the Okanogan River that remain open to equestrian use. See the Okanogan National Forest Travel Plan map.

LEVEL II: Still relatively easy, well maintained trails with some obstacles and occasional steep pitches but without prolonged grades. Trail tread is native surface with occasional surface rock or loose rocks; horses need not be shod. Good trail for inexperienced riders to gain mountain trail riding experience and for green, young or conditioning all horses in the spring. Example: The Cabin Trail from Fourth of July trailhead to the Antoine trail.

LEVEL III: The terrain will be a little rougher. Obstacles may be encountered and there may be occasional steep pitches or prolonged grades exceeding ¼ mile. The tread will be native surface but surface rock and loose rock will be common; horses should be shod but hard hooved horses may be OK. This level can be negotiated with some trepidation by new or inexperienced riders and young or green horses, but it is not recommended that they go alone. Experienced riders and experienced horses in good condition will have no problems. Example: The Southside trail from the trailhead to Bonaparte Lookout or Clark Ridge Trail.

LEVEL IV: The terrain is moderate to difficult at times. Obstacles should be anticipated including steep pitches and prolonged grades. Trail tread is native surface; however, long stretches of surface rock or loose rock on the trail are common. Horses must be shod. Not recommended for new or inexperienced riders; experienced riders may feel some trepidation on these trails. Not recommended for green horses; fairly easily negotiated by experienced horses that are in good condition. Example: The Cathedral Driveway trail in the Pasayten Wilderness from the trailhead to the Chewauk River.

LEVEL V: These are the most difficult trails. Terrain is frequently steep and rugged with prolonged grades that exceed ¼ mile. Numerous obstacles, some hazardous, can be expected. Trail tread is native surface; however, long stretches of surface rock or loose rock on the trail are common. Horses must be shod. Experienced riders may feel some trepidation on these trails and will frequently dismount and lead their horses. Inexperienced riders should not attempt these trails and are not recommended for green horses, but can be negotiated by experienced horses that are in good condition. Example: Four Point Lake Trail in the Pasayten Wilderness from the lake to the top of Coleman Ridge.

LEAVE NO TRACE

To *Leave No Trace* is an important concept of Backcountry Horsemen. Please practice these guidelines so our travel on the land will leave *Minimal Impact*.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

1. Know the regulations, inherent risks and special concerns for the area you'll visit
2. Visit the backcountry in small groups
3. Avoid popular areas during times of high use
4. Choose equipment and clothing in subdued colors
5. Repackage food into reusable containers

CAMP AND TRAVEL ON DURABLE SURFACES

On the Trail:

1. Stay on designated trail, walk in a single file in the middle of the path
2. Do not shortcut switchbacks
3. When traveling cross-country, choose the most durable surfaces available: Rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow
4. Use map and compass to eliminate the need for rock cairns, tree scars and ribbons
5. Step to the downhill side of the trail and talk softly when encountering pack stock

At Camp:

1. Choose an established, legal site that will not be damaged by your stay
2. Restrict activities to the area where vegetation is compacted or absent
3. Keep pollutant out of water sources by camping at least 200 feet (70 adult steps) from lakes and streams

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

1. Pack everything that you bring into wild country back
2. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations securely
3. Pick up all spilled foods

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WHAT YOU CAN'T PACK OUT

1. Deposit human waste in cat hole dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, or trails - cover and disguise when finished
2. Use toilet paper or wipes sparingly, pack them out

3. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap
4. Inspect your campsite before and after your stay - pack out all trash, yours and others

MINIMIZE USE AND IMPACTS OF FIRE

1. Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry - always carry a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern instead of a fire.
2. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires - don't scar large rocks or overhangs
3. Gather sticks no larger than an adult's wrist - do not snap branches from live, dead or downed trees
4. Put out campfires completely
5. Remove all unburned trash from fire ring and scatter the cool ashes over a large area well away from camp.

Trail Clearing Tips

The following trail clearing tips are provided based on USFS and other natural resource agency trail construction and maintenance handbooks and from the OVC Trail Boss.

1. Trail clearing is FUN. Enjoy the mountains, the scenery and the outdoors. If you can walk a trail, throw a branch, you can help.
2. Be safety conscious at all times.
3. You are responsible for your team mate's safety as well as your own. Know where trees will fall and warn other workers. Maintain a safe distance between workers, especially when felling trees.
4. The trail corridor of 8 ft. wide and 10 ft. high are minimum guidelines.
5. Throw all limbs, logs and other material down-hill when possible. Limbs, logs and brush should be thrown a minimum of 4 ft. outside the trail corridor.
6. A tree 4-5 inches or less in diameter should be cut down rather than pruning a side.
7. Little ones grow into big ones. If in doubt, cut it out.
8. Cut small trees, brush and stumps off as close to the ground as possible.
9. When cutting fallen trees from the trail, be especially careful to check for binding of the tree which may cause it to spring back and injure yourself or "swampers" working with you.
10. Wear proper protective equipment to include gloves, chaps, hard hats, boots (not tennis shoes) ear plugs and long sleeve shirts.
11. Saw branches off a tree flush with the trunk.
12. In sensitive areas stumps cut flush with the ground should be covered with dirt, pine needles, moss, etc. to minimize the brightness of fresh cuts.
13. Be especially careful when cutting "leaners" across the trail corridor. It may be best to leave a "leaner" for a season to see if it will fall with a winter's snow load. If you don't feel comfortable cutting "leaners" or any other trees, LEAVE IT for a more experienced saw operator.
14. Rocks fist size or larger should be thrown outside the trail corridor. Be careful in lifting heavy rocks and logs; get help or use a large limb as a pry bar.
15. When cutting large limbs from trees, make a shallow cut on the underside of the limb first, and then cut it from the top. This can be done with a chainsaw as well as a pole saw.
16. When possible, small trees, large limbs and branches should be stashed out of site of the trail.
17. Don't forget to look UP when clearing the trail. Often times "leaners" or brush may be hanging out over the trail which should be taken down.
18. When cutting larger trees down, have a "spotter" assist you for additional safety.

Use of chainsaws/other power equipment requires operator certification

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BLM: Federal bureau of Land Management. In Okanogan Co. they manage lands returned to the public domain in 1958. This land was primarily land nobody wanted, abandoned homesteads, mining claims not patented and the unclaimed open rangelands. There are less than 100,000 acres in our county and none in large contiguous blocks greater than 640 acres.

COW: Colville, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forest. No further explanation needed.

IAC: Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation: See RCO

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act. Federal law that requires all “Federal Actions” be analyzed for detrimental impact to the natural environment.

NOVA: Non-highway Off-road Vehicle Act. These funds come to the state as a portion of the federal gasoline tax collected within the state. Since we use our vehicles to transport equine “off highway,” we are entitled to a percentage of the NOVA grant funds after it is filtered through a federal agency.

NRCA: Natural Resource Conservation Area. Forested lands managed by WNDR for some value other than timber or mineral extraction.

NRPT: National Recreation Trails Program. Money allocated for construction and maintenance of all types of trail in the state. The funds come to the state via federal appropriation.

PCT: Pacific Crest Trail. The National Scenic Trail that runs from Canada to Mexico generally following the Cascade Crest through Washington and Oregon.

OTC: Okanogan Trail Coalition. A non-profit trails advocacy group formed locally to be an “umbrella” group through which various trail users groups could apply for grants, coordinates trail projects and be a single voice for trail users in Okanogan Co. Members include cross country skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, ATV riders and snowmobile rider.

PNTA: Pacific National Trails Association. A non-profit trail advocacy group formed to support the Pacific Northwest Trail. The Pacific Northwest trail is a non-motorized route from the Continental Divide to Cape Alava on the Pacific Ocean.

RAC: Resource Advisory Committee. Citizen committee appointed by the local Forest Supervisor to distribute funds allocated to the local county as directed by the Secure Rural Schools Act.

RCO: Recreation and Conservation Office. Formerly called IAC: Inter-Agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. State agency that administers the state and federally funded recreation grants program(s) in Washington. Within this agency the items of most interest to us are the **NRTP** and **NOVA** grant programs.

RSFMP/RFA: Recreation Site Facilities Master Plan, or as it is now called, **Recreation Facilities Analysis.** This is a planning process employed by the Forest Service to determine which recreation facilities should be retained and maintained in an era of funding shortfalls.

SEPA: State Environmental Policy Act. Washington State law that mirrors NEPA for state and local government actions on state administered lands. In some cases SEPA must be followed for actions on private lands such as harvest of privately owned timber.

TITLE II: Title II funds are allocated to the county by the U.S. Government similar to a block grant via the Secure Rural Schools Act of 2000. It is the County that determines how much of the money it receives to allocate to Title II. The funds are then distributed by the **RAC.**

WDFW: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. These are state owned lands administered by WDFW as wildlife or fisheries habitat. The Sinlahekin Wildlife Area and Scotch Creek Wildlife Area are both examples of WDFW holding in the county. The Beaver Creek campground in the Methow is also a WDFW facility.

WDNR: Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The state agency charged with managing state owned forest lands in Washington.

WTA: Washington Trail Association. A nonprofit advocacy group promoting hiking trails and access on public lands throughout the state of Washington. Although WTA is open to all (user groups) it is primarily a hiker/backpacker group. WTA is probably the foremost volunteer trail maintenance organization in the state with over 75,000 hours of volunteer trail work performed annually.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Reporting volunteer hours continues to be an important facet of our organization and an important contribution to the overall mission of BCHW. The benefit those hours bring out-weighs the sometime inconvenience of remembering to report your hours. In 2010 we reported a dollar value of our work at \$54,834.81. I hope your volunteer hours were a part of that total. If you have volunteer hours to report, phone, mail or e-mail your hours and related information to your Chapter's Volunteer Hours Coordinator, Peggy Swanberg, 62 Warren Rd, Tonasket, WA 98855. E-mail at davenpeg@gdimail.net or phone 486-1107. Worksheets for your convenience are available.

WHY VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE IMPORTANT

- **Volunteering helps to keep trails open for all.** It shows us as a good neighbor with the community, kids and other user groups.
- Volunteering is our clout. Without them, our organization wouldn't be what it is now. Legislators and land managers know that our volunteer hours are an asset.
- Volunteering gives credibility to BCH during discussions with land managers. Volunteers perform work that may not otherwise get done because money is not available due to budget cuts.
- Volunteering has a positive effect when talking with land managers. It shows that as a user group, we take responsibility for keeping our public lands in good condition for future generations.
- Volunteering helps overcome negative opinion about sharing trails and enhances our image as equine riders on trails.
- Volunteering gives a sense of pride and brings a positive attitude to your Chapter and promotes teamwork.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A BCHW VOLUNTEER

Volunteer Hours Recognition and Volunteer Patch Program

The purpose of the Volunteer hours patch program is to recognize time donated by our members in support of the BCH objectives. Activities such as trail and trail-head work, LNT education and public meeting participation help to ensure our right to use stock in the backcountry and public lands.

The Volunteer Patch recognizes each member's contribution. Most wear these patches on their club coats. When seen in public, it shows our dedication to:

- Planning, building and maintaining trails and trailheads
- Spreading the Leave No Trace message and educating others and ourselves on the wise use of the backcountry resource
- Working to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational use
- Working to educate others in many different areas of horsemanship
- Providing some emergency service

BASIC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

It seems no matter how we design the membership form, it confuses people. This could be because the form itself is confusing so here are the basic guidelines.

1. You can belong to **ONLY** the State organization, but you cannot belong to OVC BCHW without also belonging to the State. If your option is to belong only to the State with no chapter affiliation, simply fill out your application, pay the State dues and mail it to the STATE TREASURER.

2. If you choose to belong to the State and OVC BCHW, fill out the application paying attention to the dues amount required. (Yes, you need to fill one out EVERY year.) Your check must include both the dues for the State and the dues for OVC BCHW. These amounts are usually shown in two different columns so look for both the dollar amount due the State and the dollar amount due OVC BCHW, add them together and mail the application along with your check to the CHAPTER TREASURER. Visit the BCHW website for STATE dues payment via credit card. You must still pay your Chapter dues to your Chapter Treasurer.

3. You can belong to more than one chapter and to do this, you need only pay the dues requirement for your secondary chapter and you do not need to pay the State dues a second time. Fill out the application, pay the chapter dues and make a notation on the form as to what chapter you paid your State dues and mail to their CHAPTER TREASURER.

4. It is highly unlikely, but possible, that you will receive a membership card showing your status as a BCHW member. Recognition of your dues payment is acknowledged by receipt of OVC BCHW monthly newsletter and of the Trailhead News every two months. **If there is an interruption in delivery of the newsletter or magazine, you need to contact a chapter officer to let them know there is a problem. It is your responsibility to keep your address and e-mail address current with us. If we don't hear from you, we can only assume that you are getting the mail and e-mail notifications.**

5. Payment of annual dues should be received by 12/31.

WASHINGTON CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

From time to time we are asked by BCHW to send an e- mail, FAX, letter or call our Washington Congressional Delegation to ask them to support a bill or take a position on a particular issue that is being proposed before Congress. To assist you in sending a letter to our Delegation we are enclosing the list of our Legislative District Representatives for your handy reference.

Senator Maria Cantwell
W. 920 Riverside, Suite 697
Spokane, WA. 99201
509-353-2507
FAX 509-353-2547

Senator Patty Murray
10 N. Post Street, Suite 600
Spokane, WA. 99201
509-624-9515
FAX 509-624-9561

Doc Hastings
1203 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-3251

**THE MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
2012 Refreshment List**

January 18.....Andrea Haberman
February 15.....Dave & Sally Taylor
March 21.....Tom Windsor
April 18....Dave & Peggy Swanberg
May 16....Cathy Kvistad
June 20.....Cheryl Bower

July 18.....Ice Cream Social-Tonasket City Park

August 15.....Dave & Gail Sunde
September 19.....Cheryl Bower
October 17..... Jerry & Gail Downs
November 21.....George & Lu Young

December.....Christmas Party & Gift Exchange

OFFICER BOARD MEETING LOCATION

January 16.....Stan & Cathy Kvistad, 1pm
February 13.....Dave & Gail Sunde, Ton. Visit Cntr, 1pm
March 19..... Nora Rappe`, 1pm
April 16.....Trygve Culp, Ton. Visit Cntr, 7pm
May 14.....Cheryl Bower, 7pm
June 18..... Dave & Peg Swanberg, 7pm
July 16.....Nora Rappe`, 7pm
August 13.....Dave Sunde, 7pm
September 17.....Cheryl Bower, 7pm
October 15.....Stan & Cathy Kvistad, 7pm
November 19.....Dave & Peg Swanberg, 1pm
December 10.....Trygve Culp, Ton. Visit Cntr, 1pm

MEETING AND POTLUCK INFORMATION

For gatherings where food and drink will be consumed, the following guidelines apply:

1. The Chapter will provide the necessary cups, plates, etc. for the monthly business meetings and for the Ice Cream Social. Coffee and cups will also be provided by the Chapter at any function where that beverage is being provided by the Chapter.
2. The Chapter **WILL NO LONGER** provide place settings, silverware, napkins or serving utensils at any potluck or meal. Please remember to bring your own.
3. Please bring any potluck dish ready to serve including any serving utensil required.
4. After the meal, please clean up your potluck dish, spoon or whatever so nobody has to be in the kitchen washing dishes instead of enjoying the evening.

READ ME!
then
VOLUNTEER

This Yearbook is provided for your convenience. Please keep it handy as it contains information that will be helpful to you throughout the year.

Replacement Yearbooks can be made available at a cost of \$5. They can be picked up at any monthly meeting. If you need the replacement Yearbook to be mailed to you, the cost is \$7.00.

For replacement Yearbooks, please contact Peggy Swanberg, 509-486-1107 or e-mail at davenpeg@gdimail.net.

Keeping your contact information current is your responsibility. You should receive a newsletter at the beginning of each month and a Trailhead News every two months. If you stop receiving these, contact any officer and advise them of the problem.