



OKANOGAN COUNTY
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN
OF
WASHINGTON
NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR
BY DAVE SWANBERG

Where does the time go? It seems like I just finished writing my article for the May newsletter yesterday. Since my last report, a couple of things have happened that affects our Chapter.

First, the WFDW grant to build the Carter Mtn. and Horse Spring Coulee trailheads was turned down. There was \$941,347. in requested funds and only \$220,036. available. They suggested we apply for a RCO land development grant which I am looking into at this time. Second, the Title II grant that we assisted Okanogan Co. in preparing for the Whistler Canyon Trailhead development was not approved. Again, there were more dollars requested than what was available. It looks like we will have to depend on BLM to purchase and develop the trailhead now.

At the May business meeting our new Trail Boss, Bob Crowell, decided to resign his position for personal reasons. I am sorry that he felt he had to resign as he, along with other members did many hours of volunteer work to keep our trails open for riding and other recreational uses.

Coming up on the first week in June is the National Trails Day work parties at the Sweat Creek trailhead and also at the 4th of July trailhead on Mt. Bonaparte. See other articles in the newsletter for more details.

Near the end of June there will be a work party on Bannon Mt. and a Ladies Camp-Out on S. Loup Loup. See more details further in the newsletter for these events.

This is all the news I have for now.

Happy Trails,

Dave

OVBCH BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 19, 2010

13 members present, welcomed new member, Jamie Walter. Guest speaker was Barry Culp from the Okanogan Valley Land Council.

Minutes from the 4-21-10 meeting were read. Dave Sunde moved to approve, 2nd by Susan and the minutes approved.

Dave Swanberg gave the Treasurer's report, we are solvent.

Directors Report:

Trygve informed us that Peter Goldmark has an open calendar for July 26-30. He had been previously invited to tour the Loomis Forest. More Information to follow at a later date.

Trail Boss Report:

No report, Bob Crowell resigned.

Volunteer hours:

Peggy Swanberg reminded everyone that volunteer hours for April are due as well as any previous hours that have not been submitted.

Legislative:

Dave Sunde reported that there was nothing new on the legislative front as of right now.

We were notified that we did not get the ALEA grant for Carter Mt. or Horse Spring Coulee trailhead.

Trygve reported that BLM has the money for Whistler Canyon purchase but nothing can be done until the 2010 apple harvest is done.

Dave Swanberg reported on the Fun Weekend at Sinlahekin. There were 9 people on Friday, 11 people on Saturday and 13 riders. Fun was had by all.

BCHW LNT

Was nominated and awarded for excellence. Trygve moved to donate \$100. to cover the travel expenses for 3 members to Washington, D.C. to accept the award, seconded by Dave Sunde and motion passed.

Trygve made a motion to dedicate a trailhead sign in Tom Windsor's name at Disappointment Trailhead to be done in 2011. 2nd by Steve McKinney and motion passed.

Steve McKinney made a motion to donate a membership to Mahlendorf's, 2nd by Trygve, but the motion did not pass.

Dave Sunde made a motion to cancel the Chiliwist ride, due to circumstances, Trygve 2nd and motion passed.

Bannon Mt. work party 6/25 & 26, Whistler Canyon Work party to McDonald Mt. June 19, contact Bob Crowell or Barb McKinney for details. Ladies Camp-out 6-25 thru 27. There will be 1 hosted ride on Saturday.

Peggy Swanberg will have maps to hand out. More information will follow in the newsletter. The July 10 Poker ride was changed to July 11 at Peacock Meadows. Contact Frank or Linda Osborne for more info.

We received a thank you from Olympic National Park for the donation of \$100.

Trygve reported that the wilderness pack trip is filling up fast and to get your name on the list if you want to go.

There is a public meeting Thursday, 5-27m, Tonasket H.S. 6-8 P.M. for information on the BLM planning process.

Dave Sunde motioned to adjourn, Trygve 2nd, motion passed.

Minutes taken by Dawn Crowell and transcribed by Peggy Swanberg. On 5-27 Bob Crowell informed Dave Swanberg that Dawn Crowell was resigning as Secretary

OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER WILDERNESS PACK TRIP

Trygve Culp

The Chapter's annual wilderness pack trip this year is scheduled for July 13th through July 16th. The plan is to pack into the Horseshoe Basin area of the eastern Pasayten and set up a base camp on the 13th. Tentatively, we will meet at the Middle Fork trailhead and go up the Middle Fork of Toats Coulee to the Clutch Creek trail. We will go north up the Clutch Creek trail to Old Iron Gate and then on into the Basin on the Boundary Trail. Total length of the trip into the Basin is about 8 miles. Trails are condition levels II and III; there is a short chunk of the Clutch Creek Trail that might be a level IV (steep, rocky, narrow) for about 1/8th mile. Nothing scary! Driving directions to the Middle Fork Trailhead are in the 2010 "Yellow Book". Although Northwest Forest Passes were not required at the Middle Fork in past years, one may be required this year so folks should have one (or an America the Beautiful pass) just to be on the safe side.

From our base camp in Horseshoe Basin, folks can day ride to a lot of neat places: The top of Windy Peak will probably still be snow bound, but we should be able to get close. Adventurous souls could ride over Topaz Mountain and down Basin Creek to the Chewuch River. Smith Lake offers some good fly-fishing (and incredibly cold swimming!) and is a short 3-mile ride from where we will be camped. For the real "saddle tramps", Tungsten Mine is about 18 miles away (you might consider spiking there overnight). The trip to Goodenough and on up to the top of Arnold Peak is always a nice ride with some incredible views. I've always enjoyed the ride out to Dome Camp and back along the Boundary Trail – there are some really neat views of Teapot Dome and southwesterly into the Rimmel Peak country.

At this time, the ride planners are considering doing meals a little differently than we've done in the past. What we have in mind is developing a menu and then "assigning" folks to do the cooking and clean up for specific meals. Groceries would be purchased communally and the price split 12 ways. Stay tuned on this deal. Since we are limited to 6 head of pack stock it will be necessary to coordinate our transportation needs closely. For example, I propose that we take in and set up a couple of wall tents for every one to sleep in as opposed to everybody taking their own 7 to 12 lb tent. This might even be done a week early. Again, stay tuned...

This trip is limited to 30 heartbeats without going through the USFS hassle of obtaining a permit: 12 human and 18 head of stock. That works out to be 12 riders, 12 saddle horses and 6 pack animals. There should be adequate grass for grazing in the Basin, but if folks bring processed feed (packer pellets or COB), it must be Washington State certified weed seed free. *Note: Certified packer pellets are available at Tonasket Feed and Supply.* Following the May Chapter meeting 9 people had signed up for the trip and 12 head of saddle and pack stock are committed. If you have not contacted me your name is not on the list. If you would like to go, call or e-mail me as soon as possible. The trip will be opened up to non-OVC Chapter BCHW members on June 17th.

OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF WASHINGTON

**OKANOGAN VALLEY PASS THRU GATE
APRIL 10, 2010**

Two weeks ago, at our first trail clearing project in the Sinlahekin Valley Wildlife Area, we were asked by the WDFW representative if we could construct a passage that would allow entrance and egress only by equine and foot traffic and at the same time keep grazing livestock confined within the wildlife area. This would allow them to lock the larger vehicle gates in areas where motorized usage in non-motorized areas was becoming a problem.

Chapter Trail Boss, Bob Crowell, drew a sketch on the ground of what he thought would work. After more discussion, the group came up with a preliminary rough design that only required some refinement and final dimensions. Several of the refinements were suggested by a local AVT dealership.

After making a final drawing showing the suggested design and dimensions, the chapter representatives presented their drawing to the WDFW representatives' for their approval. The consensus was that it was a good design and permission for Okanogan Valley Chapter to install the pass-thru gate was given. WDFW furnished the materials required to construct the gate, OVC furnished the concrete in which to bed the structure.

The photos below represent the final result of our collaborated efforts. The gate was installed on April 6 and 7 and has met the approval of several "passer-bys". It allows easy passage of equine and foot traffic and requires the normal swing gate be closed only if livestock are going to be present in the area.



**CONGRATULATIONS
GREAT JOB**

If anyone is interested of installing a similar gate, our Chapter would be more than happy to provide a detailed dimensioned drawing to construct this gate.

Contact us at 509-486-1107 or 509-486-2061

May Trail Clearing Report

On Saturday May 15th, seven members met in Riverside and caravanned to just past Crawfish Lake. We were stopped there because of questionable road conditions due to the compacted snow and ice on the road left over from the snowmobile season. We rode in for about 3.5 miles to Barnell Meadows and cleared several miles of a trail creating a short loop ride in the area.

On Saturday May 22nd Bob Crowell and Dave Sunde went back up with intention of creating a longer loop ride. The snow was pretty much gone, and we were able to drive to the meadows. Even after all the rain, the road is not soft except in a couple of places. All the streams are running strong now. There are a couple of wet boggy spots leaving the meadow where a horse could sink clear to the cinch. Bob located the existing "Bailey Mountain Trail" and we cleared the connector to that trail, and then the BMT to its junction with the 130 road. We did not clear the 130 road any more than necessary. It is passable by horses by stepping over or going around blow downs, but the present condition will discourage ATV use.

The Fun Weekend May 14, 15, and 16 By Dave Swanberg

Due to the cancellation of our Basic LNT Clinic, we decided to hold a Fun Weekend instead. The Chapter provided breakfasts and steak dinners and the members just enjoyed riding, relaxing and socializing. The potluck donations for the steak dinner made a complete meal but added minimal work for participants.

The weather cooperated and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. On Friday we had 9 people show up for the dinner, camping and breakfast on Saturday morning. Two groups for a total of 12 riders and 14 horses and 1 mule left the trailhead later in the morning for an easy ride from Blue Lake to the manager's headquarters.

Trygve provided individual assistance to Lynn Kennedy, Teresa Naylor and Peggy Swanberg regarding how to properly fit the pack saddle and rigging on their horses. With gear weighed and placed in pack boxes or an "H" pack, additional instruction and a demonstration on how to tie the diamond to secure the load and tie the flopper-stopper was given.

Eleven people came for the Saturday night dinner and we discovered we have an excellent chef in our Chapter. Dan Naylor did a fine job BBQ'ing our steaks much to the relief of Trygve and Dave Swanberg. We want to thank you Dan for volunteering to take care of the steaks.

With food on the forefront of everybody's mind, the breakfast menu included our standard eggs and fixings in a bag with breakfast rolls and juice. Sunday was pancakes, sausage, steak and fried eggs. The highlight of one breakfast was a surprise can of Spam. There were a few groans from the crowd, but in short order there was not a single slice left

LADIES 3RD ANNUAL CAMP-OUT

JUNE 25-27

R.S.V.P.

This year the lady's camp-out will be at the South Loup-Loup Cross Country Ski Park. The park is located at the top of the pass on Highway 20. Coming from Tonasket it will be on your left, coming from Twisp it will be on your right. After making the turn into the ski park, proceed until you see the restroom on the right. Camping will be in that general area on both sides of the roadway. A USFS parking permit is required to park or camp and only **certified weed seed free hay or pellet food** is allowed for feed in this area.

Be prepared for independent camping by making your own provisions for sleeping, meals (except for meals planned by the meal committee) and stock containment. There is **no water**, neither potable or stock so be sure to bring an adequate amount for you and your horse/mule.

There will be one hosted ride on Saturday and it will be a level one ride. I will provide maps of the ski-park and the area on the other side of the highway if you want to do some independent riding any other time.

Please **RSVP** to Peggy Swanberg, 486-1107 or davenpeg@gdimail.net. It is helpful to know how many are planning to attend and if you will be camping, arriving on Friday or arriving on Saturday.

The food committee has suggested a salad bar with bread for Friday nite, Sat. breakfast of biscuits and gravy with fruit. Lunches everyone should pack their won. Dinner can be Surf and Turf (shrimp and Steak or Chicken breast) with salad, baked potato or a pasta and bread. Sunday morning could be eggs in a bag, lunch again is riders responsibility. Desserts would be potluck.

Maybe we could have some appetizers as potluck for Friday and Sat.

Salad bar ideas: green salad lettuces, grilled beef and chicken, mixed marinated beans, mushrooms, tomatoes,, chopped eggs, olives, feta cheese and parmesan/asiago cheese and assorted various dressings.

Beverages could be coffee, juices and water and of course, BYOB.

For more information or suggestions regarding food, please contact Susan Beck at 486-2709 or scbeck@ncidata.com

Hope to see you there!

Peggy

**OKANOGAN CHAPTER OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN
WELCOMES YOU, WE ARE GLAD YOU JOINED
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

ROXIE PELTON

JAYME WALTER

JEFF AND NANCY HARSHMAN



CHILIWIST RIDE CANCELLED

Stan, Cathy and Nora are disappointed too, We will make this one up somewhere in the scheduling.

BANNON MTN.WORK PARTY

Dave Swanberg

On Saturday, June 25th, we have a work party scheduled to install gates at the 3 cattle guards on road #200. this will enable riders to open and close the gates easier than using the existing wire gates. On Sunday the 26th we are planning to hold a rifle “sight in” for those who wouldlike to get ready for the hunting season. We will also finish up any work activities not completed on Saturday.

If you are planning to attend, work will start at 9:00 A>M. on Saturday. I hope to see somenew faces there. Driving instructions are in the Yearbook



Thank you Linda O. for the wonderful pictures

BUCKET RIDE ON JULY 11, 2010

Mark your calendars now for the fun ride on July 11th. Linda and Frank Osborne are lining up a BUCKET RIDE up Conconully way Steak feed and Potluck dinner to follow the ride. Steaks will be donated by OVBCH.

This ride is set up for Backcountry Horseman and their Guests only The Fun starts at Peacock Meadows, the road will be marked , right up to the Meadow.

FOLLOW THE PAPER PLATES

Each Poker hand will be \$5.00 each . Money and Prizes to the top 3-5winners. This of course depends on how many riders we have.

Bring your guests and have a great time.

**RSVP OF COURSE FROM THE MEMBERS FOR THE STEAKS
MORE INFORMATION IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER**

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY WORK PARTIES

This year, the Chapter will be working on two different trail systems for National Trails day over the long weekend of June 4,5, and 6th.

One work party will focus on logging out and opening the Maple Mountain trail in the Clackamus area. Con-currently, the ferry County chapter will be working on the east end of this trail to re-establish a creek crossing and begin log out of the trail in Ferry County. This is a new trail for the Chapter to work on. The trail ties in with the old Storm King Mountain trail on the Okanogan Ferry County line.

Chapter members interested in work on this trail will meet at the Sweat Creek trailhead at 8:00 A.M. Friday , June 4th. See the 2010 yearbook for driving directions to the trailhead. Work will continue on Saturday. A ride in the area is planned for Sunday June 6th. Riders on Sunday will meet at 9:00 A.M. and be prepared to ride at 10:00 A.M. For more information contact Trygve Culp at 486-2061

The second work party will work on the Cabin Trail and other trails that circumnavigate Mount Bonaparte. That group will meet at the 4th of July trailhead at 8:00 AM Saturday , June 5th. Please see your 2010 yearbook for driving directions to the trailhead. Work will continue on Sunday. For additional information contact Dave Sunde at 486-1547



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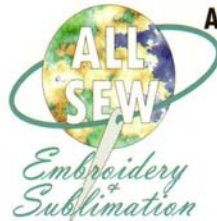
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DEHYDRATION—RE—HYDRATION

TRICK # 1 stimulate thirst. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of table salt per water (which is about the same concentration as in body fluids). Drinking just plain water dilutes the concentration of salt in human and equine bodies. We like to drink water spiked with electrolytes for re-hydration, and for the same reason it is recommended to let your horse drink salted water. Salted water encourages the drive to drink and your horse will drink up to 50% more water compared to unsalted water. In the morning before you leave camp, fill a bucket with water (with salt added as explained above) and let it warm up in the sun while you are gone. Let them drink this after the initial cool down period when you return back to camp after a long ride. We like to let them stand saddled for awhile (to keep their back muscles warm) and give a bit of carrot, apple or handful of hay to settle down first before they can have a sip of the special ambient temperature water.

TRICK #2 Make your own electrolytes.

One tablespoon table salt.,Two tablespoons of Applesauce, Mix and fill into syringe– squirt on tongue.

This should make your horse thirsty within 15 minutes. Or place one tablespoon of light corn syrup on back of tongue.

TRICKS #'S 3 & 4 WATCH FOR THEM IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

