



APRIL 2011
OKANOGAN
VALLEY
BCHW
NEWSLETTER

EDITOR
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From The President's Desk

March is gone, but a lot was accomplished this month. This is a big report so I'll just jump right in.

We received approval near the end of February to start work on the Whistler Canyon Trail construction. Our Contractor moved in in March 7th and started the trail work. They worked for 7 straight days and along with our volunteers. Finished the rough-in of the trail on Sunday March 13th. The trail is now ready for all non-motorized recreational users. Our first horseback rider (Barbara McKinney) rode up the trail before we even finished and thought it was beautiful.

The County is now working on getting the Trailhead established. A new entrance, roadway and parking area should be completed in 3-4 months. Hopefully we will be able to use the new trailhead near the end of summer. After the trailhead is completed the BLM is scheduled to purchase the property from the County. Stay tuned for updates.

We just returned from a 3 day event at the BCHW 2011 Rendezvous in Ellensburg at the KVEC Fairgrounds. I want to thank all our members who attended the event and supported BCHW. I believe we had the largest group with a total of 22 members in attendance. For those of you who were unable to attend you missed one of the best Rendezvous since we became members in 2002. Everybody else seemed to have a good time too.

I believe we had over 300 members and the general public attends on Sat. And we had over 250 attend the dinner, auctions and dance. Barb Apple drew large crowds at each of her demonstrations and there was nearly a full house in our vendor area. Our consignment tack sale did quite well with our members taking turns holding down the fort. We had a lot of positive comments for holding a used tack sale and they wondered why someone hadn't done it before. And we made money too.

At the membership meeting on Sat, members were awarded for their outstanding service in supporting their Chapter and/or BCHW. I'm proud to tell you that Peggy received a Lopper award for her hard work over the last 10 years. Congratulations Peg! (Peg says I also need to add that I won the "Chinch"

award for my efforts at the State Level.) Our Chapter received 2nd place in the Chapter displays. We were tied with 3 other Chapters for 2nd place; one was Ferry Co., they also won first place in the table decorations so our East side area was well represented.

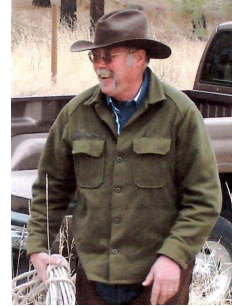
With so many things to do, the only criticism I heard was that some members couldn't attend every venue they wanted to see. We hope to do better next year and I hope that more members would find reasons to attend.

Now that Rendezvous is over until next year, we can get back to the business at hand. We have some trail clearing and trail rides scheduled in April. Until then, keep your cinch tight and ride safely. Dave

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 2011

Trygve Culp



Wow, what a month March turned out to be...Stan Kvistad and Jim LeMieux got the Whistler Canyon trail reconstruction done in 7 days. They had started work on Monday, March 7th. You can now ride from Highway 97 up to the new Wilcox Driveway trailhead about 13 miles, or you could if there not any snow and the trail had been logged out. I visited with Mark Morris down at the Rendezvous tow weeks ago-he and Rae live up the Mt Hull road just below the Wilcox trailhead-he was telling me that they still have over a foot of snow at his house. It is probably a good thing we postponed the Whistler Canyon work party until the end of this month (see the Trail head boss report elsewhere in this newsletter). Anyway , the trail reconstruction is complete-Next time you talk with Stan, please tell him Thanks! There is still some "spit and polish" work to be done on the new chunk of trail and we are responsible for some other work under the conditions of our grant, but the big jobs are out of the way and best of all-you can ride to the top of the Canyon on public land without trespassing on private land. Trailer parking down along Hwy 97 is still somewhat problematic; hopefully, by the time you read this ,Okanogan County will have awarded a contract to remove the orchards, construct the access road and begin leveling and graveling the new trailhead. I'm optimistic that they will have everything done by the 4th of July. We'll have to have a big party!! Stay tuned.

I attended the BCHW 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting that was held in conjunction with Rendezvous and Leadership training at the Kittitas Valley Events Center in Ellensburg the third weekend in March. The Board meeting was S.O.S.-I will talk about it a little bit later-but the Rendezvous was one for the records books! I've been attending BCHW Rendezvous and Annual General Meetings on and off since 1994. By far and away this is the best one I have attended to date. There w=seemed to be something for just about everyone. There were clinicians, mounted shooters, land navigation classes, packing demonstrations, and Dutch oven cooking demonstrations and classes. There were quite a few vendors-anyway more than I recall being at Rendezvous in quite a few years- and our own Okanogan Valley Chapter state-wide tack sale seemed like a real hit. At the Annual General Meeting one of the membership, Peggy Swanberg won the 2011 Lopper Award, and Dave Swanberg won the Board of Directors Cinch Award. I cannot think of two more deserving folks and it is really neat that their contributions are also recognized by BCHW. Congratulations to both Petty and Dave. Our Chapter display-a model of our ATV barrier gate- won 2nd place in a 4-way tie. The Chapter displays just keep getting better and better each year; likewise, the competition gets stiffer each year. Some "highlights" from the Board of Directors meeting:

*Legislative Day for 2011 is postponed indefinitely due to lack of significant legislation that affects us as an organization:construction in and around Olympia makes access to the Capitol nearly impossible: and, the high cost of fuel and lodging.

*The Board authorized the President to sign recreation trail program (RPT) grant applications for LNT and trail work to replace the Washington Recreation Conservation Office grants that will run out this year.

*Negotiations continue with the Naches District Ranger to reverse her decision to close all trail on the Naches District from December 5 thru June 15 every year.

*BCHW accumulated over 62,000 volunteer hours doing "mission statement related" volunteer house in 2010. Over 30,000 of those hours were spent doing work on trails on public lands.

Despite the new snow almost every day this past week, I know that Spring is just around the corner. My mules have begun to shed out and Janet spotted some buttercups along the driveway yesterday. I'll see you out on the trails soon,

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dave Sunde

March 30, 2011

OVCBCHW



Things are changing quickly in Olympia. This is the latest

HB1796 SB 5622 \$30.00 Access Pass to State lands

House Bill: Referred to Ways and Means 2/22/11. Scheduled for Public hearing 2/15/11.

Senate Bill: Feb. 1 reading, referred to Natural Resources & Marine Waters. Feb 2 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters at 8:00 A.M.

Feb 17 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters at 1:30 P.M.

SSB 5622 this is the substitute bill for SB 5622

State Recreation Fee bill SSB5622 is scheduled for a public hearing Wednesday, March 30 at 1:30 P.M. before the Senate Ways and Means Committee. As of this writing, we have not been privy to the last round of inside amendments being proposed for this bill. While this is a “public hearing” scheduled on one day notice, I can’t tell you whether our concerns with the 1st Substitute bill have been addressed. Without more information we can’t accurately testify for or against this bill, though it may be possible that information will be released some time tomorrow morning. We can say that we don’t accept the vehicle definition in the 1st substitute (that still includes trailers and campers), the non-transferable pass, and the fee distribution allocation. Maybe these are addressed in the 2nd Substitute, and maybe not.

The only good news is that no matter what happens tomorrow, the process isn’t over. We can send in comments after the hearing, and any fee bill will still need to be voted on the floor and then be considered in the opposite chamber first by yet another committee.

HB1102 Excludes certain physical constructions used to block access to, or enhance the surrounding aquatic habitat of, a road subject to the road maintenance and abandonment plan requirements of the forest practices rules, as a known dangerous artificial latent condition.

HB1102 (a Brian Blake bill) modifies the Recreational Immunity Statute (RCW4.24.210) to recognize unsigned barriers on road that cause injury to recreational users as a result of their use, not due to an irresponsible act of the landowner. In other words, dive into a tank trap and it is your own fault. This bill would apply to public and private property.

Jan 12 First reading, referred to Judiciary

HB1109 Requires the legislature to approve or reject the department of Fish and Wildlife’s recommended final environmental impact statement and the gray wolf conservation and management plan as a whole.

HB1109 would require legislative authorization for any Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and incidental Take Permits (ITP) worked out between the federal government and the state government.

Continued on next page

Legislative Report continued:

Indeed, such a statewide HCP plan is currently under development between WDFW and USFWS that when done will regulate horseback riding group events, dog trial events, water crossing and standards for trails, etc. on WDFW lands. While we are giving input on this effort in a cooperative matter with WDFW, we have no way of knowing what the outcome will be, particularly since so many species are listed in the plan. We do know there will be another opportunity for public comment later this year, but we may not know if those comments will be considered in the final plan.

Jan 12 First reading, referred to Agriculture and Natural Resources

Feb 16 Scheduled for public hearing.

March 25 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Marine Waters at 12:00

HB1093 Prohibits the department of agriculture from requiring an owner or possessor of a horse to present the horse for a brand inspection upon movement, sale, importation into Washington, exportation into Washington, exportation out of Washington, or under any other circumstances.

We made the decision a while back that anything that deals with horses should be looked at by BCHW. That doesn't mean we need to take a position. My main personal concern is that it does provide contradictory definitions for livestock, horses, and mules. That could be very well be a BCHW issue as is on its own a reason not to support the bill as written.

Jan 11 First reading, referred to agriculture & Natural Resources.

HB1147 SB 5065 Animal Cruelty

These 2 bills have generated the most comments of any in the past 4 weeks. The bottom line is that they are targeting mostly West (wet) side horse and pet owners. The problem is that the bill is written in a way they will not allow horse and cattle owners turn to turn out their animals on summer pasture without ensuring that they have adequate shelter. There are also provisions that will not allow county fairs to display animas as they have for years.

The animal cruelty bill did pass out of the House Judiciary Committee today. However, it has been significantly modified by Rep Klippert working with concerned stakeholders (including we assume Re. Short) by Amendment H2219.2 He has struck both the necessary shelter definition and the failure to provide cre section, which combined would have left horse owners vulnerable to being fined even when your animals were well off, but wet or without adequate shelter.

I personally don't see any remaining issues with this amended bill with regards to stock ownership. A big thanks for Rep. Klippert, Re[p. Short, and others for correcting this bill.

Both Bills have had their 2nd reading and are in their respective Judiciary committees. House Bill: Judiciary Committee, Senate Bill Judiciary Committee.

Stehekin Road The Stehekin Joint Memorial also movd forward today out of the House Environment committee. It has already made it through the Senate so it doesn't have far to go!!

Naches Ranger District Mike Drougas and Bob Badgley met with Irene Davidson, who now says that she is leaning toward closing only motorized trails in the Naches RD. She clearly wants to do that each year, and we have nothing in writing as yet, so we are in a cautiously optimistic wait-and-see mode. However, our efforts have had a positive effect:

She is now aware of NEPA requirements, She Understands that stock users are highly concerned, she sees potential for communication and partnering with BCHW before making important decisions that affect stock use.

TRAIL BOSS REPORT MARCH/APRIL 2011

I'm sure it 's no secret to anyone that we're having a late spring. As I'm writing this on 27 March I can look out the window to the East and West and see snow storms in the lower mountains. Salmon Meadows has over 50 inches of snow and the Beaver Creek are (near the Spring ride location) has 48 inches with 5-6 feet of snow above 6,000 feet.

On Friday Mach 25 six chapter members (Trygve C., Stan K, Dave Sunde, Steve M and Cheryl B. and Tow W.) worked on Sinlahekin Valley DFW trails. It was a nasty day with rain in the valley and snow on the valley walls just above us. Despite the bad weather we got about eight miles of trails cleared from the DFW Headquarters south to the Hunters camp. There was still ice and snow on the trails in some locations and in other locations the ground was so soft Stan's mules were "post holing" . As a result we cancelled the Saturday work party and Sunday ride due to safety considerations and to avoid damage to soft, wet trails.

The DFW had a thinning crew in the area west of Blue Lake and in some places there is still slash on the trail which we were told to leave in place.

Hopefully, April will have better conditions for clearing trails and chapter rides. We are scheduled to clear trails in the Bannon Mountain area on Friday 9 Saturday 8 of April. As of this writing we have not done a reconnaissance of the area to check for snow and ice on the roads and trails. Dave Swanberg has said he will do this in the near future and we will get information out to the membership. Assuming we have snow and ice free roads and trails to clear in the Bannon Mt. Area, we will need chainsaws, loppers and poles saws. There will be work for anyone who wants to participate. This area is best worked with ATV's and pickups. If anyone wants to bring horses, we can find places for their use also. Bring food, water and clothing for cool and/or wet conditions.

Check the 2011 Yearbook (Blue) for personal clothing /equipment requirements and driving directions to Bannon Mt. Trailhead. Call me if you have Questions.

Tom Windsor
Trail boss
826-4595

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IMPROVED 2012 SWEETHEART AUCTION

Some food for thought– Peggy Swanberg

As many of you know, our Sweetheart Auction provides a nice financial boost to our budget, but we are always challenged with how we can get other people besides our members to attend. Most of our attempts to include guests have not been very successful. I'd like to suggest a change.

Those of you that get the Chronicle or Gazette or follow the events at the Community Cultural Center know about the Friday Night Coffee House and the monthly presentations put on by the Okanogan Highland Alliance. These have been very well attended and except for the raptor bird presentation, primarily consist of a photo display of the topic to be covered. Dinner is offered for nominal amount and, not unusual, a request for membership or a donation is also requested. Those in attendance will often donate if they have enjoyed the presentation. Their next presentation will be April 1 and you can find more information at www.okanoganhighland.org/education.

I would like to suggest that we take advantage of the Friday Night Coffee house and partner at some level with the Cultural Center to make our own photo presentation/Sweetheart auction event. All options are on the table. We can offer dinner, dessert auction, possibly a little cowboy poetry, displays, an explanation of who we are and what we do and lots of scenic photos of Okanogan County because we are out there every summer taking our own pictures. And we can request donations or memberships from those that find value in the work we do.

It will be a big change from what we have done before and it will take a commitment from many members.. I would like to bring this issue before the membership at the April 16th meeting so we can open this up for discussion and either approve the change or elect to stay with our standard Sweetheart Auction.

Please consider this option and come to the meeting prepared to speak and listen to the pros and cons of this suggestion

CHANGE

**I'T S WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT!
IF WE WANT TO MOVE FORWARD
CHANGE IS INEVITABLE**

IT TAKES COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO CHANGE,

SUPER RAFFLE

2011

The sale of raffle tickets is under way. We were able to sell some at the Rendezvous last week. For this fundraiser to be successful, we need every member to participate and do their share by selling as many tickets as possible. So far only 1/4 of the tickets are out with members. That leaves plenty for the rest. Please give me a call or email and let me know how many books of 5 you can take. We will be placing some tickets with local merchants and will also be selling tickets at public functions thorough the year, but the sales from members is what will make this fundraiser a success.

CALL DAVE SUNDE NOW AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR TICKETS. 486-1547

OVBCH MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 14, 2011

Cher Bower, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Pres. Dave Swanberg. New members John and Michelle Harris were introduced, and renewal members Doug and Shelly Walla Dale Olson the new head of the Tonasket Ranger Dist. Was introduced as well as Michael Alvarado who will be leaving the post. Dale presented our chapter with a letter of appreciation for our work and some trail passes for volunteer hours. They talked about on going and new trail work, funds availability, and the possibility of using motorized vehicles and chainsaws for work in the wilderness , and there will be no change in the policy. We had a brief question and answer time.

It was moved by Trygve Culp and 2nd by Dave Sunde that the minutes be approved as printed in the Feb. Newsletter. Motion passed.

The Treasurers report was given by Dave Swanberg. We made \$680.00 at the Sweetheart Auction. We are Solvent. A motion to approve was made by Dave Sunde and 2nd by Gail Sunde. Motion passed.

Directors report was given by Trygve Culp. He stated that the Naches area has been closed until June 21. It will be closed from Dec. 15 to June 21 annually. See his report in the Newsletter.

Legislative Report was given by Dave Sunde, The animal cruelty bill #5065 probably will not pass without an amendment . See report in Newsletter.

Whistler Canyon: Dave Swanberg stated that Stan Kvistad and Jim Leimuex had completed their work. Stan will put in an extra day to clean up and burn. An invoice was submitted for \$15,557.00. A motion was made by Trygve Culp to write a check tonight for \$6,000.00 and the balance to be paid next week. 2nd Dave Sunde, motion passed.

Volunteer hours: Peggy reminded us that the hours we work would count and if we did any of the fun stuff the driver can report 1/2 of the mileage and 1/2 of the travel time. Passengers can claim only 1/2 travel time and no mileage. Report soon so we don't forget.

Super Raffle” Dave Sunde reported that he has the tickets printed and available for us to take and sell. 1st prize 1/2 beef, 2nd prize 1/4 beef, 3rd Emerson 40” TV and 4th \$300.00 fuel gift certificate from Coleman Fuel. There are 400 tickets at \$10.00 each and the drawing will be held on Dec. 3rd at the CC Center in Tonasket.

Unfinished business: Please sign up to help in the consignment booth at the Rendezvous.

New Business: Tom Windsor reminded us to be at the Blue Lake camp ground on Friday 25th and Sat 26th for the Trail work. Work starts promptly at 9:00 bring loppers and lunch. We will ride on Sunday from the Blue Lake camp ground.

Coming events: Please make a note in the 2011 Yearbook that the Whistler Canyon Work Party was moved to April 30 and May 1 and the Bannan Mt. was moved up to Friday April 8 & 9. Stan Kvistad will lead the Spring Ride in the Chiliwist on April 23, probably to Cougar Canyon.

2012 Sweetheart Auction: Peggy Swanberg suggested that we do a presentation of some kind and diner at the CCC Coffee house and have it open to the public. Entertainment, possibly cowboy poetry by Stan Kvistad.

These are some things to think about later.

Robin Stice gave us some coupons from Cabala’s and some flyers on the Eden Valley Guest Ranch to pass out at the Rendezvous.

Good of the Order:

Dave Sunde asked if an article should be written for the paper about the completion of the Whistler canyon trail work. It was decided to wait until the parking area was completed and things had a chance to dry out. He also stated that we had received a grant for \$9,000. to do work on the Horse Spring coulee parking area and the cultural research survey will cost \$5,000. and we can not begin until that is completed.

Trygve Culp reminded us of the WOGA banquet on Sat March 26th at the Red Barn in Winthrop at 6:00. A Wild game meal will be served.

Tom Windsor recommended riding Honeymoon pass. It is well worth it.

A motion made by Trygve Culp and 2nd by Gail Sunde to adjourn the meeting. Passed at 8:15.

Respectively Submitted
Cher Bower, Secretary



Whistler Canyon improvement

SIGN WORKSHOP

We have 4 signs to build, 3 for the DNR, and one for Whistler Canyon Trailhead. Depending on the weather, I am proposing to schedule a work party during the week of April 12. Probably the best days would be the 13th, 14th, or the 15th.

For those of you who would like to socialize, work on several signs, please let me know what day (s) would be best for you.

A lunch and beverages will be provided by the Chapter, so I will need for you to RSVP.

A confirming letter with information on the date and time, after I receive your response.

Thanks, Dave Swanberg

APRIL CHILIWIST RIDE

**Saturday April 23
615 Chiliwist Rd.**

Hurrah!!! Our snow is finally gone and it's time to go riding. Saturday March 23 is our annual Spring Chiliwist ride. Be at the Kvistad's Ranch at 615 Chiliwist Rd. by 9:00 to ride out at 10:00

Bring your favorite horse or mule and your own MEAT. We will provide the fire and the condiments for a cook out on the trail.

We'll have a mule drawn wagon to haul the supplies and the fixins for our lunch, which will be down Cougar Canyon.

The terrain will accommodate bare foot animals. The length of the ride will be 10- 12 miles loop. Level 2.

There will be room for your lunches in the wagon and we will have available extra plates and silverware, but bring your own, depending on what you bring to eat...

Call Stan at 826-1421 if you have any questions. See you on the 23rd.

CONSIGNMENT TACK SALE

It was successful !! Even with the limited advertising and promotion, work got around that we would be doing a consignment sale at the Rendezvous. The 10x20 space that we rented proved too small. Fortunately, we were able to expand into some vacant space.

We sold \$2,328.50 worth of tack to happy buyers and received a \$6.00 cash donation from a person that just thought what we were doing was worth while.

For a first time effort, all went smoothly and the money balanced within \$1.00 so the checks to the sellers were in the mail by Monday morning.

I want to thank everybody in this article so I hope I don't miss anyone.

THANKS! To Linda Osborne for being in the lead and really knowing how to stage the items for best selling. The rest of us tagged along so Thanks to Frank O. Dave and Sally Taylor, George and Lu Young, Gail and Jerry Downs, Dave and Gail Sunde, Dave and Peggy Swanberg, Janet Logan, Mark Morris and Trygve and Janet Culp. When we recover from this sale, we can discuss a repeat performance in 2012

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