



OVBCHW

NEWSLETTER

November 2012

In Account With

Charles Henry Bourn

Saddle and Pack Horses

Specialty Guiding and Packing

To Mount Baker and other Mountains

Well the year is winding down and has gone by too fast! A big thanks to our many volunteers. We set a new record this year with 3,122.5 hours with a dollar value of \$ 99,430.95. That is really something! THANK YOU! The chapter elections will be at the November meeting and nobody seems to be jumping up with the "I can do that" attitude. All positions are open plus we will need a volunteer



Stan on Skeeter

hour coordinator, director, LNT person, AND WHAT ELSE, I don't remember. There are a ton of things I'd like to say but the most important is: "Get involved and stay involved." It's you that makes this thing a success. Thanks for letting me represent you as your president this year and God bless and the creeks don't rise maybe we'll do it again.

God Bless, Stan

Oh ya, I would like some feedback on these E-mail things. Is it working or are ya getting too many? Feel free ta call. Stan

OVCBCHW

Meeting Minutes

October 17th, 2012

Our President Stan Kvistad called the meeting to order at 7:10. There were 24 people in attendance including 3 guests. We started with the Pledge of Allegiance. Before the guests were introduced Stan asked if anyone had done anything exciting this summer. Starting with Sandra Walters, she told us about her wonderful trip to Yellowstone Park with Ernie and Frank and Linda Osborne. Jinnie Bartholomew told us she was now an employer at her new shop on main street-Tonasket. She hired a high school student to help with the washing and ironing. Last Andrea Haberman told us about her trip near Ellensburg to help a friend move cattle away from the fire and his ordeals with helpful neighbors who took his dog and horse to the humane society and he spent hours tracking them down before he could round up his cattle!

Our guests were introduced and they told us a little about their background—Teresa Engelbert, Gene Wehmeyer and Butch Mardock a BCH member visiting from Lewis County.

A motion was made by Dave Sunde and seconded by Steve McKinney to approve the minutes as printed on the Web page. Approved.

Treasurers Report: Cathy Kvistad read the report. We are solvent. Motion to approve by Dave Sunde, 2nd by Steve McKinney. Approved.

REPORTS

Directors: Trygve Culp told us of the resolution to raise our state dues by \$5.00 and got a show of hands to show the majority of our chapter approved of the increase. See the report in the Newsletter for further information and his complete report. During his discussion about the proposed Horse Camp near the Loup Loup Snow Park a motion was made by Tryg to write a letter of support from our chapter, 2nd by Dave Sunde. Passed. Tryg will compose the letter for Stan to sign.

Trail Boss: Dave Sunde reported on our last rides and work parties. He gave the Whistler Canyon Visitor Log to Secretary Cher Bower, to file with the chapter records. See his complete report in the Newsletter.

Legislative: Dave Sunde stated that not much was happening at this time.

Volunteer Hours: Dave Sunde read the report submitted by Peggy Swanberg. We turned in 3122.5 hours, which is the equivalent of \$99430.95. This is the most our chapter has ever done. See the full report in the Newsletter. Next year let's all try and be consistent and turn in our volunteer hours monthly.

Website: Dave Sunde stated that things are coming along well for the new format. He will be completing the necessary work this fall and winter.

Newsletter: Dave Sunde stated that he is doing the Newsletter at this time and would like articles and pictures. If no one steps forward to take over Tryg has volunteered to do it in Jan.

Social Director: Gail Sunde reminded us about the Halloween Party on Oct 26 at 6:00 at the Tonasket Senior Center. The club is supplying Brats and Sauerkraut and punch. The Everly Sisters will sing for us and Stan will do a few poems. There will be a prize for the best costume but you do not have to come in costume. There is also a no host dinner at Koals's at 6:00 Nov. 17th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

BCHW Joint Saving Acct.: Tryg told us that the State savings plan is in effect but we may be getting the same 4% on our Dow Jones acct. We will do further checking. Dave Sunde made a motion and 2nd by Andrea Haberman to table this until next month. Passed.

Whistler Canyon Trailhead work: Stan Kvistad told us that the county had approved the bid by Strider Construction to do the work.

NEW BUSINESS;

Chapter Elections-Nominations: Dave Sunde stated that we need a Director, LNT Educator, Newsletter/Publicity, Volunteer hours person. Steve McKinney said he would do the Director job if someone could do it for him while he is gone this winter. Tryg said he would do the Newsletter and Linda Osborne the Publicity. This would be listed as Newsletter/Publicity—Culp/Osborne, so there would not be a conflict with the By-laws. The nominations are open until the meeting in November. Ray Morris has said he will do the Blue Book.

COMING EVENTS:

Halloween Party Oct. 26, 6:00 at the Tonasket Senior Center

Chiliwist Color Ride: The Kvistad's Oct. 28th arrive 9:-00 ride at 10:00. Chili feed pot-luck to follow.

Board Meeting Nov.19 at Dave Swanberg's 1:00pm

General Meeting: Nov 21st at Koala's dinner at 6:00 meeting at 7:00

Planning meeting: the Nov 26 meeting is being moved to Jan or Feb.

A motion was made by Tryg and 2nd by Dave Sunde to adjourn the meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:17.

Respectively submitted,

Cher Bower, Secretary



Cher and Steve

Ready to ride

OVCBCHW

Legislative Report

October, 2012

Dave Sunde

There is not a lot going on at the federal level. Jeff Chapman has been representing BCHW on a coalition of groups that are working together on access support. There are groups not typically working together on this (WTA, Washington Wild, EMBA). The Suiattle River Road restoration is just one. A decision to fixing the road is expected before the end of the year.



The upper Stehekin Road relocation project is dependent upon a Senate bill, and that is very unlikely to occur in the lame duck session. We still have misgivings about any reconstruction until a suitable alternate location for the PCT can be found. Both are important, but we do feel the PCT, once off a road, should not have a road put on top of it. These are probably issues for next year when the bill is mostly going to be taken up again. We didn't have too much heartache with the repairs of the lower Stehekin Road, a separate EA, as accepted by the Park Service.

What we are also working on is The Sportsmen's Act of 2012 (S3525), and Rick Larsen's Green Mountain Lookout bill (HR6039) to pass in the lame duck session. Two letters have been sent over Bob Gish's signature in support. Here is a brief summary of the bills:

1. The Sportsman's Act of 2012 is actually a package of 19 bills to reauthorize important access bills for hunting, fishing, and other recreation uses including activities involving pack and saddle stock. It has broad support from the recreation and conservation communities. It includes a number of measures that BCHW is on record as supporting. This Sportsmen's Act is sponsored by Senator Tester and is entirely different than the House Sportsmen Heritage Act that is so controversial.

The Green Mountain Lookout Heritage Protection Act (HR 6039) is sponsored by Representative Rick Larsen. This Lookout is at the end of the Green Mountain Trail. While the Green Mountain Trail is open to stock, the last half mile to the top is quite precarious and not recommended for animals. Few go up this last section. The Lookout needed to be repaired. It was in fact about to collapse. Efforts to employ mules to transport materials were really not feasible without great risk to the animals. In the end, the use of a helicopter was the only rational option to safely address the Lookout without compounding the situation by having the remains of the Lookout scattered across the mountain. Indeed, removing the Lookout at this point would require either contin-

ued use of helicopters or once again put riding and pack stock at unacceptable risks.

On the local scene, Discover Pass revenues were about \$4.7 million short of expectations for the months of June through September. That means instead of asking for \$18 million from the general fund for the 2013-2015 biennium, the Commission will consider asking for \$27.2 million. With the State Parks getting 84% of the sales revenue, that means that the budgets of WDFW and the DNR will be further strained. There are some grant opportunities that will be exploited, but we should be aware that 2013 will be a very lean year for any new projects as well as for ongoing trail maintenance.

The PNTA and the DNR are still in discussion about trail right-of-way specifications for the Pacific NW National Scenic Trail through Goodenough Park from the international Airport to the Wilderness boundary. Hopefully that will be resolved soon so the tread can be permanently established.

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Director's Report

October 2012

Trygve Culp, OVC Director

It has been quite a while since I've written my column. Between Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail work this past summer and a busy fall getting in hay and firewood and hunting, it seems that time has just slipped away from me. Now maybe that we have had 6 or 7 inches of snow here in the Highlands things will slow down a bit. Now before you get to thinking we have 7 inches of snow on the ground, let me assure you that is not the case - we've had a cumulative total of that amount since October 15th - as of this morning there is only about 3 inches left. Fortunately, the ground is not frozen so all of this snowmelt should be going into the ground.



I attended the BCHW Board of Directors meeting last month. It was sort of a short meeting without a lot of "fluff". A couple of things jumped out at me as being important to the membership; though, and I will pass those along.

First of all was a discussion of a possible dues increase for Back Country Horsemen of America, our parent organization. Directors were asked to discuss the proposal with their Chapters and be prepared to vote on a BCHW state position at the December Board meeting. I explained the proposal at the Chapter business meeting on October 17. In a nutshell, the rationale for increasing national level dues at this time is fairly straightforward: The cost of doing business on the national stage has increased significantly; for example, the price of sending the BCHA Chairman or Wilderness Advisor or other trails expert to Washington D.C. to testify before Congress has escalated from around \$300 (when the last dues increase was imposed in 2006) for roundtrip airfare from the west coast to nearly \$1200 for the same flight today. Although membership in BCHA continues to grow every year, dues have just not kept pace with costs. Anyway, the Chapter voted in favor of the proposed increase 22 in favor and 3 opposed; I will vote for the proposal at the Board meeting.

The second item that I thought should be shared concerns a proposal to construct a new Horse Camp on the Loup-Loup summit just north of Highway 20 between Twisp and Okanogan. The Methow Valley Chapter has taken the lead on this project and has pledged \$17,000.00 to see it to fruition. The USFS - Methow Valley Ranger District - has "ponyed" up \$8,000.00 and has received a Secure Rural Schools grant for \$16,000.00 to do the planning and NEPA analysis. Initially, a 10 site "horse trailer friendly" camp facility with corrals, high-lines, a stock ramp and toilets is proposed with possible expansion in the future. What a great start! But, the Methow Chapter needs your help. As a part of the NEPA process, the Forest Service must show that there is a need for a horse camp in that location. As you know our Chapter has had many rides on the Loup-Loup over the years. For those of us from the north end of the Okanogan it would be super if there were equine friendly camping facilities in that neck of the woods as it is about a 3 to 3½ hour drive one way. Anyway, what you can do is write a letter of support in favor of the camp - outlining why it is important to you. Send the letter to: MVBCH, P.O. Box 902, Twisp, WA 98856. The Methow Chapter will forward all letters to the Forest Service. Alternatively, you can e-mail your comments to: wpjzford@centurylink.net.

One last item... Christmas is just around the corner and BCHW Raffle Calendars make wonderful gifts or "stocking stuffers". Shucks, get one for yourself - there is a possibility (small though it may be!) that you could win up to \$6,300.00.

One more last item... At the October meeting President Stan announced that the Chapter had set a new record for volunteer hours. Let me add my thanks to Stan's and those of Trail Boss, Dave Sunde. Congratulations one and all - and a special thanks to Peggy Swanberg for encouraging us to submit our hours to her and her meticulous recording of all of our hours.

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Trail Boss Report

October, 2012

Dave Sunde

Things wound down somewhat in October after a very event filled spring and summer. October also means hunting season so many of our trail workers spent some non BCHW time in woods chasing the elusive elk and deer. The scheduled joint ride with the Ferry County chapter on the 13th at 13 Mile was cancelled due to many downed trees caused by the high winds that passed through the area.

On the October 15th 3 of us attended the Okanogan County Council meeting. At that meeting the commissioners were presented with 2 bids to do the dirt work associated with the new Whistler Canyon Trailhead and the US 97 apron/entrance. One bid was over the County estimate and the other was just over \$50,000. Strider Construction was declared the winner and contracts were awarded and signed.

The NEPA for the sweat creek reroute is almost complete. The SKY/PNTA youth group is scheduled to install the reroutes next summer.

Our Chiliwist Ride on the 28th was a success with 13 riders and even more attendees for the potluck afterwards. About 4+ hours of butt in the saddle and maybe 15 miles on cow paths, old roads, and overland bushwhacking made for good appetites. The rain stayed away, but the fog never lifted so we could not get the expected views of the Okanogan Valley and Brewster.

COMING EVENTS

November

17 No Host Dinner—18:00 @ Koala's in Omak—Please RSVP to Gail Sunde 486-1547

19 OVC Board Meeting @ Tonasket Visitor Center 19:00

21 OVC Membership Meeting 19:00 @ Koala's in Omak. Op-

tional dinner is at 6 with the business meeting and chapter elections at 7:00 PM.

26 The Annual Planning Meeting at the Sunde's which was scheduled for the 26th of November has been postponed until after the new year. The date of the meeting will be announced at the December meeting, in emails, and on the website.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Gail Sunde

Twenty people attended. There were amazing costumes, excellent food, and a game of pin the tail on the mule. Cowboy poet Stan Kvistad, and the Everly Sisters performed. It doesn't get much better than that. It was a great evening.

CHILIWIST RIDE

Stan Kvistad

Remember the saying: "The best laid plans are meant to go awry?" No rain, no snow, mid 40's but the doggone fog kind of got us! When we stopped out on Dent Mt. where we should have been able to see Bridgeport, Brewster, and the Okanogan, etc. we were in the fog and were out farther than I thought. I had ridden this route back at the end of April so when we headed back all us were thinking hot chili in an hour and a half. Well when we got down below the fog I really had to do some thinking as to where in the heck are we! Kurt Hensley says we were looking at the Davis Canyon road and he was right and ya know, I knew just where we were! LOL! Not exactly sure how we got there but it all worked out. We dropped off there and were able to go up Cougar Canyon. We passed the memorial erected by the Boy Scouts honoring a 12 year old boy who was killed by a cougar in 1925. All in all, we had a good ride of about 4+ hours. We did see quite a bit of color, but a week earlier it would have been brilliant. Cathy, Gail, Bonnie, and Nora had a big spread waiting along with dishes the riders had brought, so no one went home hungry or cold. It was a good bunch; Betty and Julie from the Methow and 11 of us from the Okanogan. There was a good mix of mules and horses too.



2013 NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

OVCBCHW

Peggy Swanberg

The Chapter is still looking for volunteers willing to serve in positions of significant importance for the 2013 calendar year. You can call Stan with your intentions or be nominated from the floor at the November membership meeting.

Currently we need a nomination for:

Director: This is not a board position but does require that you attend the chapter board meetings as well as the monthly meetings and report to the chapter members both verbally and in a written report. You are also required to attend the quarterly BCHW meetings which are presently held in Ellensburg. These meetings often require an overnight stay. You should be comfortable using extensive e-mail communications and Google groups.

LNT Educator: This position is open for appointment. You should be comfortable with e-mail communications, attend monthly board and membership meeting and be able to guide the chapter with appropriate Leave No Trace guidelines. Training through the LNT program is available.

Publicity: We need a person to agree to be the Publicity appointment. Currently this person will be a board member and should attend both the board meeting and chapter monthly meetings. Responsibilities would include publishing the monthly newsletter and providing publicity type article to local newspapers, BCHW and BCHA. But the good news is you already have a staff with volunteers willing to help with the newsletter portion and the publicity portion.



Volunteer Hours Coordinator: We need an appointee for Volunteer Hours. As this responsibility becomes handled more and more in an electronic fashion, the monthly requirement usually takes less than an hour. Many of the members are able to submit their hours to you electronically at the end of the month for your review and then it is just a copy and paste to the master report. You would be a board member and should attend both the board meetings and monthly chapter meetings. Familiarity with the Excel program would be a requirement as well as the ability to utilize e-mail. This position DOES NOT involve the responsibilities of the regional volunteer coordinator.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Dave Swanberg

Could you use \$300.00 next year?

All you have to do is buy a BCHW 2013 Raffle Calendar and you will have a chance to win \$300.00 each month next year each time we draw a winning ticket on the last day each month for the first 11 months and a Grand prize of \$3,000.00 to be drawn in December of 2013.

Raffle calendars are available at the business meetings or call me at 486-1107 or email at: swanee@gdimail.net and I will get them to you.

NON

MEM

BERSHIP

APPLICATION

FORM

NO

TABLE

NO

Come Join Us!

To join BCHW, complete this application, sign the liability release (all members **18 and over**), and enclose payment:

- **Chapter members**, turn application and payment in to your Chapter Treasurer. If paying by check, make it out to your chapter.
- **Independent members** (folks who are **not** joining a chapter), make check out to "BCHW", and mail application and payment to: BCHW, ATTN: MEMBERSHIP, 110 W. 6th Ave., PMB 393, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



Member Info

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): _____ County: _____

STATE MEMBERSHIP

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
- Lifetime (Single) \$1200.00

State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)

Additional State Donation \$ _____

Subtotal A \$ _____

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Name (or Independent): _____

Okanogan Valley-PO Box 812
Tonasket, WA 98855

Chapter Dues (determined by chapter) \$ 10.00

Additional Chapter Donation \$ _____

Subtotal B \$ _____

Grand Total (A+B) \$ _____

LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children.

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever 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: _____

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

**IF YOU HAVE CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER**

CALL- 486-1547

EMAIL dsunde@starband.net

**Send pictures or articles of interest to the above reference. We
welcome your input**

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