



The Picket Line

Okanogan Valley Chapter
Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Volume 27, Number 5
May 2013

From the President

Stan Kvistad

Well, so much for April!

We had a pretty good work party \ chain saw certification and turn out down at Smith Lake in the Chiliwist on the 20th. The only problem was that there was too much to do - seems a (what Tryg calls) micro burst had gone through there - it sure created some kind of mess. We got about half of it - bummer! So, as the summer goes along I will try to get the rest done and maybe some tread work around the lake. But the up side is we had a good time and everyone wants to go back - maybe for the fall color ride. Plus, we had our traditional hot dog roast! A real big thanks to Dave and Gail Sunde, Mary and Heather McHugh, Jodi Curry and Tom Tugaw, Tryg Culp, Nonie Judd, Swanny and Cathy and I - Thanks to all!

Well, I've been busy laying out the route for the wagon train and the first day we are going up over Dent Mountain. I hope it's not foggy! For those of you that were on last fall color ride (lost in the fog) Betty Wagner put a little poem together about it and I'll try to get it in this newsletter.

Tryg will have to report on the Sinlahekin work party - it sounded like they pretty much got it done.

The May business meeting will be back at the Caribou Inn in Okanogan - they say that



President Stan Kvistad with two of his traveling companions.

they can do it different so we'll give it another go.

The month of May looks pretty packed so pick something out and come on out and have a good time.

God Bless, Stan

The Okanogan Mule Rider Says

With help from Baxter Black...
People don't "own" mules anymore than they "own" barn cats. They are both just living at your place and doing as little as they can in order to stay there and stay fed.

"There is no education in the second kick of a mule..."

Earnest F. Hollings, US Senator, SC

Minutes of the March Business Meeting

President Stan Kvistad called the meeting to order at 7:05, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Guests, Elmer Rappe and Don Marshall were introduced. Don became a new member. There were 22 people in attendance. Cher Bower presented Cathy Kvistad with a Dutch oven cookbook as a thank you for taking over the secretarial job while she was gone.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, motion-Dave Sunde and 2nd Nora Rappe.

Cathy Kvistad gave treasurer's report. We are solvent. Motion to approve by Dave Sunde, 2nd Gail Sunde, approved.

REPORTS

Directors: Dave Sunde-see newsletter

Trail Boss: Dave Sunde-see newsletter Dave will have sheets available at work parties for volunteer hours.

Volunteer Hours: Nora Rappe told us that she was still in training (thank you Peg Swanberg) Peg stated that the new volunteer hour forms could be downloaded from the BCHW Website. Please turn in yours hour MONTHLY! Email to Nora.

Website: Dave Sunde had nothing to report.

Newsletter: Trygve Culp asked for articles, tips and photos.

Social Director: Gail Sunde told us that the club would be supplying coffee, hot dogs and the fixings at the Smith Lake chain saw certification and work party.

UNFINISHED BUSINES

Trailer Backing Clinic: Stan Kvistad said the clinic was well received. Trailer inspections were done and several problems were found.

Firearms Training: Dave Sunde reported that the event will be May 18, at the County Shooting Range, 9:00am. Directions will be posted on the website. Bring the following:

- .22 to .45APC (no .45 or .44mags please)
- He will cover revolvers (single and double) this time.
- Bring about 200 rounds of ammo.
- Please have a holster for your firearm. This is rather important for the safety of the class.
- Please bring ear protection and eye protection. Lightweight gloves are also recommended
- 1/3 of the class will be classroom and 2/3 will be on the range.
- Chapter will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and the rest of the lunch.

Haney Meadows (tabled from march). Trygve Culp made a motion to table this until next month. 2nd Dave Swanberg. Approved

BCHW Legal Fund Donation: Cathy Kvistad stated that our approved \$500. Donation

"Minutes" continued on page 10

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Tip of the Month
Tick Removal

Cher Bower

Ticks are as much a part of spring in the Okanogan as sunflowers and service berry blossoms. This month's tip is certainly timely as we start to work outside more, ride and exercise our horses and mules and start doing trail work.

To remove a tick that has attached itself to you, your dog, cat or equine, put a couple (that is 2 or 3) drops of dish detergent on a cotton ball. Hold the detergent soaked cotton ball on the tick for 15 to 20 seconds then rub gently. The tick will come off in the cotton ball.

Cher remembers reading this tip in a previous Chapter newsletter several years ago; she tried it - it works - and would like to thank the original submitter.

People everywhere confuse what they read in newspapers with news. -- A. J. Liebling

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The Chiliwist Fog Ride

A Poem by Betty Wagner

Stan, Stan, he's our man,
If he can't lead you hither and yon,
No one can.

He might lead you up in the fog & snow,
And quite possibly miss the way home.

But all was not lost - found Cougar Canyon,
With lots of stories about a young boy,
Who's head stone we found.

Then out of the trees, then low and behold,
A beautiful golden prairie field and Stan's
home.

And what a chili with fixins potluck.
And here we just thought,
Stan was taking us amuck.

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Dave Sunde, OVC Trail Boss




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Is it really almost May already? In April Trygve and I rode up Whistler Canyon to check out conditions. Michael had done an excellent job of getting the trail cleared so we had a good loop ride up and around the Black Diamond Lake trail. We looked up the trail beyond the upper BDL trail and it looked like a mess of downed trees. Michael has since cleared up to the McDonald Mountain Trail junction and reports that the trail was in fact covered with downed trees. There was still a lot of water over low spots on the BDL loop but if you keep your horse in the center and out of the bottomless mud at the edges you should be okay. Stan did a good job of diverting some of the water that is an annual spring problem just below the Green Gate and USFS boundary. Both the new bridges are in good shape. We will need to add a little more native fill to the approaches as some settling has occurred.

We also had a good work party on DNR land at Smith Lake combined with saw certification. We had eleven total people show up. Dave Swanberg, Gail and Cathy drove to the Lake and started clearing the lakeshore trail and then set up lunch for the rest of us. We started off by crossing an old field, but as soon as we dropped into the riparian area it became a whole lot of work. It looks like a "micro-burst" went through that area and focused on the

See "Trail Boss" on page 8



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From My Spot on the Picket Line

Trygve Culp, Newsletter Editor

I rode with Dave Sunde up Whistler Canyon and around the Black Diamond Lake loop on the 11th of April. It was a great day - the sun was shining and the sunflowers and service berry bushes were beginning to bloom on the south facing aspects on the county and BLM land above the trailhead. Best of all I was on the back of my mule - our first trail ride this year.

Chapter members Michael Alvarado and Barbara McKinney had already logged out the Whistler Canyon 100 trail to the eastern intersection with the Black Diamond Lake loop, as well as the 5 mile loop around the lake. A very special thanks to them - what a whale of a lot of work this year! There were several seasonal ponds that inundated the loop trail, but all of the ponds had good, hard bottoms that the equines were able to traverse with no problems. I was glad to see that last year's new bridges have withstood the tremendous volume of water that has come off the west face of Mt Hull.

On Saturday the 20th, I put on a saw certification session down at Smith Lake in the Chilli-wist. Three sawyers recertified and we did a lot of sawing, but there is still another day or day and a halves worth of work remaining to get the trail open and passable. Man, what a lot of blow down! It looks like a mini-tornado went through that country. I hope we can schedule a ride down there one of these days soon.

It has been very cold in the Highlands this month and we've had more snow than we had in February. But... Summer is just around the corner. See you out on the trails real soon...



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Elected Officers for 2013

President: Stan Kvistad
Vice President: Steve McKinney
Secretary: Cher Bower
Treasurer: Cathy Kvistad
Trail Boss: Dave Sunde
Director: Dave Sunde
Immediate Past President: Vacant this year

Appointed Officers for 2013

Volunteer Hours Coordinator: Nora Rappe'
Leave No Trace Coordinator: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Trygve Culp
Publicity Chair: Linda Osborne
Alternate Trail Boss: Trygve Culp

DO NOT FORGET

Please turn your volunteer hours in monthly to Nora Rappe. You can e-mail Nora at: nrappe@wildblue.net or telephone her at (509) 422 - 0244.

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Please patronize the businesses that advertise in the Picket Line. While you are shopping in their businesses or utilizing their services remember to thank them for supporting our efforts to keep trails open on public lands in the Okanogan.

Director's Report

Dave Sunde, Chapter Director and Legislative Chair

There are just a couple of items for the report this month.

BCHW Cookbooks : We will be picking up cookbooks for the chapter at the meeting on June 22nd. Yes the date of the Director meeting has been changed from what is printed on the 2013 calendar.

BCHW Legal Defense Fund: Our chapter committed to donate \$500 to the BCHW Legal Defense Fund. There may be another request if other chapters do not do their fair share.

June 22nd Board Meeting: If anyone has anything they want to bring before the board, then please get it to me as soon as possible.

Legislative Report

The current session is winding down, but a special session is likely. Bills regarding State Parks funding are coming fast and either moving or dying. SB5897 and SHB1935 are alive and well but may change drastically before they get to the floor because of modification at the committee level. This is the problem with these bills. They can be amended on the spot in Committee with no prior review by the public so you may say you like a bill one minute, but it is an entirely different bill the next.

We still want \$27million for State Parks from the General Fund, at least \$60 million for WWRP (and no games with cherry picking projects), and no sweeps of NOVA. Also if there is going to be a gas tax increase, NOVA needs its appropriate share.

Well one bill we supported passed both houses. It increased the size of the Horse Park Authority. At least it is something!!

Everyone should have received an "E-Mail Blast" concerning Yosemite from BCHA. If not please visit this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/YosemiteForEveryone>.

Check this bill out (SB5906) that was just introduced with a hearing soon. It will provide DNR \$1 million dollars over two years for increased recreational law enforcement on their lands. This is not a done deal so please go on the bill website and post a comment in support. Mention any problems with inadequate law enforcement or closures you have seen. Help DNR keep their lands open. To comment on this bill, the link is at: SB 5906 or here is the full link:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2013&bill=5906>

Don't be shy about writing your legislators directly.

**I hate to nag, but you need to turn in your volunteer hours! If you need some assistance contact Nora Rappe'.
Your Newsletter Editor**

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Out on the Trail Whistler Canyon Trail 100

Peggy Swanburg

Now that 90% of the physical work has been completed on this very ambitious project, I thought you might enjoy reading some of the comments left by the people that have visited the trail head and utilized the trail.

Currently most of the users have been from the Omak to Oroville area, but others have come from as far away as Tennessee.

This is what they had to say: "Happy Earth Day!" "Missed loop turn at Black Diamond Lake, went several miles out of the way. 7 hours but my hair doesn't hurt!" "2 Big!! Bears." "Great." "Nice hike today!" "Thanks for clearing!" "Thank you BCHW (followed by a heart) "We appreciate your hard work for this trail!" "Awesome work!" "Good, fine, OK, very enjoyable." "Thanks for the work! We love & enjoyed it every time!" "Thank you for all the trail work!!" "Thanks for all your work, Michael A." "Thank U." "Picnic lunch overlook of Oroville, beautiful." "Lots of parties out on the trail today, hiking & riding. Hot!" "Beautiful" "Wonderful!" "Very nice trail." "Beautiful day! A few mucky spots on Frog Pond Trail." "Nice Trail." "Nice trail." "Nice Trail." "wonderful! Saw flock of bighorns x2 down on switchback of start of trail." "Beautiful, frog pond hike was muddy" "First visit, great job!"

I think you get the picture. But from one who regularly accesses the area for rock climbing: "It was a 2 snake day." "Overcast & cool day, yet I see 5 big rattlers at the mouth of a den in the gully west of Windy Point!"

Trail users should just keep that in mind especially if they enjoy going off the trail

Dave Sunde

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Everybody that worked on this project from beginning to near end can feel very proud of what has been done here.

Thanks to all of you

Sinlahekin Trail Clearing

Trygve Culp
Alternate Trail Boss

On Friday, April 26th, 5 Chapter members, Dave and Peggy Swanburg, Michael - the "Energizer Bunny" - Alvarado, Anita Ellis and I met at Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin to clear the trails from Headquarters to the Hunters Camp 10 miles south. Justin Haug, the Acting Manager for the Wildlife Area, met us at 9:00 AM for a briefing. Justin informed us that logging operations were done on the Wildlife area for the winter season and that we should not find any new slash on any of the trails. He also informed us that there were no trees down from Headquarters to the end of the canal trail north of Blue Lake and very few trees

See "Sinlahekin" continued on page 9

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"Trail Boss" Continued from page 4

trail. There were lots of trees snapped off 15 or 20 feet up and the tops deposited at random across the trail. There was one section where the mess across the trail was over my head, and I was on May. We had 2 saws going and each was on the 3rd tank when we got to the lake.

I missed the Sinlahekin work party but understand that due to hard work and the number of workers everything was finished up by Friday afternoon and no Saturday work was required. Perhaps Trygve will say something about that elsewhere in this missive.

The Scotch Creek ride is coming up on May 4th which is quickly approaching. There will be another email blast about that this week.

One last thing - mark your calendars for May 25, 26 and 27. Those are the dates for the Bannon campout, work party and ride.

Scotch Creek Ride

Linda Osborne

THE SCOTCH CREEK RIDE IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY THE 4TH OF MAY. WE WILL MEET AT THE TRAILHEAD AT 09:00 AND WILL LEAVE AT 10:00 ON THE DOT. BRING A LUNCH TO EAT ON THE RIDE

DIRECTIONS: FROM OKANOGAN GO UP THE CONCONULLY HIGHWAY FOR ABOUT 11 MILES TO THE HESS LAKE ROAD, TURN RIGHT AND GO TO THE PARKING AREA. FROM TONASKET TAKE THE RIVERSIDE CUT-OFF AND THEN TURN RIGHT ON THE CONCONULLY ROAD. THE HESS LAKE ROAD IS ABOUT 3 MILES TOWARD CONCONULLY, THERE ARE ROCKS AND WATER TO CROSS SO SHOES ARE RECOMMENDED, BUT PROBABLY NOT REQUIRED FOR MOST HORSES. THE RIDE SHOULD BE FROM 3 TO 4 HOURS.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE RIDE

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“Sinlahekin” continued from page 7

down south of the lake.

The Swanburgs, who were mounted, took the trail from Hunter’s Camp to the Blue Lake campgrounds north of the lake. They encountered one large diameter tree that had fallen right down the trail that Dave was unable to cut; however, they cleared a route around the tree that is easy to see and follow. Peggy reports that there is still some older logging slash on the trail south of the metal bridge on the northwest side of Blue Lake - it is nothing that cannot be readily negotiated. *Editor’s Reminder: When riding the Blue Lake trail please do not ride on the graveled ADA trail between the metal bridge and the duck blind wildlife viewing hooch along the lake shore. We are happy to report that a new pre-cast concrete “Cascades” style vault toilet has been installed at Hunter’s Camp making that place not quite so primitive!*

Anita, Michael and I took off on foot north from Blue Lake. Michael ran chain saw and completed his saw evaluation for 2013 and 2014. Anita and I swamped and “loppered” brush behind him. We did encounter one huge ponderosa pine tree that we were not comfortable cutting with the saw that we had; however, we did clear a user made trail that skirted the big tree. I’d recommend leading saddle stock around the tree on the user trail as it is not “stuck” well to the side of the concrete lined canal. Anita felt that a short person riding a short horse or mule could ride under the tree or at least lead his or her animal without too much trouble. We finally reached the end of the canal shortly after noon. We returned to

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Blue Lake and found that the Swanburgs had just arrived so we all had a late lunch and compared notes. I made a decision that there was not enough work to warrant returning on Saturday, the 27th.

Following a late lunch, we departed the Wildlife Area around 2:30 PM - we must have passed at least 100 fisherman camps and a like number of RVs headed for the lakes in anticipation of opening day on Saturday.

You should encounter no insurmountable obstacles if you choose to ride in the Sinlahekin.

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"Minutes" continued from page 2

check was ready to be mailed.

Packing Clinic @ Dolly's: Trygve Culp reported that about 12 people attended and that it went well with many people practicing.

NEW BUSINESS

OVBCH Flyers: Linda Osborne presented a sample flyer that tells about our events and contact information that can be posted around town to try and encourage more participation and draw new membership. Dave Sunde volunteered to make changes monthly if necessary and email to the members who would be posting them in various locations.

Smith Lake Chain Saw and Work Party: Trygve Culp stated that this is a re-certification for current cardholders. Sat. April 20 meet at 9:00 (directions on the website or call Trygve or Stan.)

Sinlehekin Work Party: Dave Sunde reported that the work party would be April 26 & 27, but the work will probable be done in one day due to logging in part of the area. Meet at Blue Lake 9:00.

Scotch Creek Ride: May 4, 9:00 at Hess Lake. Linda Osborne said to bring your lunch and we will eat at the homestead.

Join OK Co. Tourism Council: Clare Painter was supposed to be at the meeting for a Presentation. Cathy Kvistad gave us some information, \$35.00 per member to join and we would get advertising in the Tourism Brochure. Trygve made a motion to table this until Clare could come and make her presentation. 2nd Dave Sunde. Approved:

Walker Lake Overnight: Aug.23-25. Steve McKinney told us that we had earned the weekend use of the Lodge. We will have a ride on Sat. the 24 and the potluck that night. There is plenty of room for trailers and high lines. Call Steve for more information. We will be joined by Ferry County and the Methow Chapter.

COMING EVENTS:

- Chainsaw Certification & work party-Sat April 20th @9am
- Sinlekein Work Party-Fri. April 26th @9am
- Methow Valley Chapter Spring Ride-April 26-28 Beaver Creek
- Scotch Creek Ride-Sat May 4th 9am
- 49er Days, Winthrop-May 10-12
- Sheriff's Shooting Range-May 18th

'MINUTES" CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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“Minutes” continued from page 11

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Michael Alvarado reported that grazing in the Whistler Canyon area will be from July 30th to Sept. 30th and the gate will have to remain closed. He suggested putting in a walk through gate. Good idea and needs planning, possible work party June 1 @ 2.

Trygve Culp stated that if members wanted a cookbook at \$12.00 each they could be delivered to someone at 49er days—no shipping. Trygve made a motion to buy 12 cookbooks at \$12.00 each, total \$144.00. 2nd Dave Swanberg-approved.

Dave Sunde said he had a copy of a vcr on how to use lumber bunks. Steve McKinney borrowed it. He also stated that if you do the long form for IRS that you should keep track of your mileage for volunteer hours for a deduction—possibly .12 cents a mile.

Steve McKinney volunteered to be the Leave No Trace Coordinator.

Dave Swanberg reported on the Raffle Calendar sales. We have sold 1354 so far. It was decided that no VIP Calendars be sold until all of the raffle calendars are sold.

Peggy Swanberg suggested that whenever we do gates we try to get ones with the latch up higher so it can be opened without getting off of your horse.

Stan Kvistad reported that as of last fall there were 160 people who signed in the Whistler Canyon Trailhead log. So far this year there are 78. He also reported that the outhouse placed by Mike Tibbs would cost \$25.00 per month and approximately \$20.00 per month to be pumped. He made a motion that the club pays for these charges. 2nd Trygve Culp. Motion passed with one opposed.

Stan Kvistad reported that the new fair manager is doing a good job and if we would like to do something for a day instead of the entire fair things could be worked out. Fair dates are Sept 13-15. More later

A horse related day will be at the Big R on June 20th. Steve and Cher have volunteered to man a table and supply information about BCH. If anyone would like to help call Steve 826-1163 or Cher 826-5281

Cathy Kvistad read a list of the items purchased with donations for the rendezvous.

Steve McKinney won the 50/50 drawing \$26.00.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dave Sunde and 2nd by Gail Sunde. All in favor, adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Cher Bower, Chapter Secretary

Your Help Is Needed

I hope that you have enjoyed the first five issues of the Chapter newsletter, “Picket Line”. I need your help with stories or articles, “Tip of the Month” features, photos, commentaries, recipes, letters to the Editor, or whatever comes to mind. Please e-mail submissions to: trygveculp@gmail.com



Okanogan Valley Chapter Calendar of Upcoming Activities

May 4, 2013: Chapter ride. Scotch Creek Wildlife Area. Meet at the south end trailhead beyond Hess Lake off of the Conconully Highway at 9:00 AM; ride at 10:00AM.

May 15, 2013: Chapter meeting at the Caribou Inn in Okanogan. Board meeting at 5:00 PM; dinner at 6:00 PM; business meeting at 7:00 PM.

May 18, 2013: Firearms safety and range firing. Okanogan County Sheriff's Range. Meet at 9:00 AM. BBQ lunch - Chapter will furnish dogs and burgers, bring a side or dessert.

May 25, 26 and 27, 2013: Bannon Multi-User Trail System work party, campout and rides. Meet at Bannon trailhead at 9:00 AM May 25.

June 1, 2013: National Trails Day. Whistler Canyon Trailhead projects. Meet at the trailhead off of Highway 97 south of Oroville at 9:00 AM.

June 2, 2013: National Trails Day. Wilcox Trailhead projects. Meet at the trailhead just inside the National Forest boundary on FS Road 3525 at 9:00 AM.

June 19, 2013: Chapter meeting at the Senior Center in Tonasket. Board meeting at 6:00 PM; business meeting at 7:00 PM.

Okanogan Valley Chapter, BCHW
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