

Capitol Riders

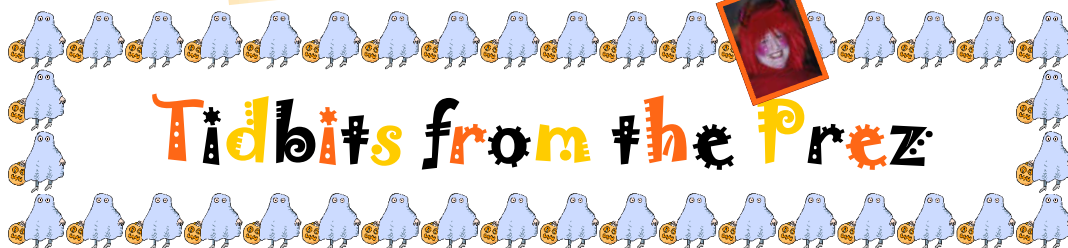
Hoofbeats

Volume 4, Issue 54

October 2007



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Last Month, I issued in the TidBits a 5 part proposed changes and a 5 part plan to try and energize club participation.

In short, this attempt has failed totally. The status of the our club is like being in the shootout at the 'Showdown at OK Corral' while waiting for the '3:10 from Yuma' at 'High Noon' and my best guess is that we have ONE more year left (2008) before we put Capitol Riders in abeyance by disbanding.

This may be good news because our Bylaws require us to return all money in the bank equally to each of the

Members be they in good standing, unless all the active member spend it first. For those who like numbers, here's the sad but true story:

1. Total Members = 54
2. Average meeting attendance = 15 or 30% of Membership
3. September Meeting attendance after call to all members (TidBits, September, 2007) = 16 or 30%
4. Adopted 3 of 5 suggested fundamental Changes (TidBits, September, 2007) = 60%

5. Accomplished 3 of 5 items of the Five-Part-Plan (TidBits, September, 2007) = 60%

6. Ritz's Survey out to 54 Members = 100%

7. Received 17 responses from Survey = 30% of surveys delivered

8. 'NO' answers to Question 9 of the survey on if you'll take a more active role in club leadership = 15 or 90% of survey responders

9. 'NO' answers to Question 10 of the survey on if you'll be a club Officer = 15 or 90% of survey responders

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Minutes from the September 11, 2007 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by **Eric Anderson**, president, at 7:05 pm. There were 16 members present at the Little Rock Firehouse on Little Rock Road. No guests were in attendance.

Capitol Riders donated ice cream and cake to the staff at the Little Rock Fire House. They always have the facilities for our meetings nice and clean. When they are doing their jobs, they are our heroes. Thanks to all of them.

Since the Chapter planned on having an open discussion after the formal meeting, it was decided that there would be no presentation for this meeting.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Ritz Duchesne was not present. **Eric** asked if the membership had any changes or additions to the minutes as published in the newsletter. A motion was made and seconded to approve them as written. Resolved: The minutes of the August 14, 2007, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Garred presented the Treasurer's Report. There is \$3550.64 in the account, plus \$20.47 in petty cash.

Director's Report: Jeff LaBreck stated that the Director's Report will be summarized in the next Hoof Beats edition.

Committee Reports:

Trail Rides/Events: Carrie Russell provided an update on the Labor Day Ride at Elbe Hills.

The upcoming trail rides for Capitol Riders are:

The next ride scheduled is for September 22nd at Green Mountain. Anyone interested can contact **Carrie** for directions and trail maps. She will e-mail/ US mail maps and directions to the membership. We are meeting in the QFC parking lot in Belfair at 10:00 and caravanning from there to the trail head.

Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Hours: Jeff LaBreck was not present due to surgery. No report.

Social Events:

Shelly Anderson gave an update on the plans for Harvest Party to be held at **Nina and Gordy's** home in Yelm. Additional details will be provided at the October meeting and via the email distribution list..

The Holiday Party takes the place of the December meeting. This year's party will be hosted by **Eric and Shelly Anderson** at their home in Onalaska. The date for the party is December 15th. Mark your calendars. Additional details will be available at the November meeting.

Membership: There are 54 paid members at this time.

Education: No report.

Hoofbeats Newsletter: Donna was not present.

Ways & Means: No report.

Hoofprints Program: As November approaches, **Jeff** is looking forward to getting the results of the Hoofprints program. Be sure to keep your records up to date to provide to **Jeff**.

Historian: Betty Reichel and Karen Johnson provided an update on the history of the club.

Co-Use Program: Tom Crowson provided an update on Co-Use.

Website: No report.

Old Business:

- Tom Crowson provided an update on the VIP ride to be held on September 15th.

New Business:

- **Nancy Garred** announced she will retire from her position as Treasurer at the end of this year. She was recognized for many years of outstanding service to the chapter. **Thank you,**

Nancy!!

- With **Donna and Gary Thorson** leaving the club at the end of the year, the Hoofbeats newsletter is in jeopardy of folding. After some discussion, **Cindy Holden** volunteered to take over that task. Eric will contact **Dean Hartman** to discuss the transition to a new editor. Thank you **Donna** for all of your years of service and thank you **Cindy** for volunteering!!!
- Plans for the chapter in 2008 were introduced as new business by **Eric**. There were a total of 13 questionnaires returned as of 9/4/07. The officers had time to review them. Overall, the use of this tool was approved by the membership. **Eric** led the attendees in a discussion based on the results of the questionnaires about the direction of Capitol Riders for the future and the election of officers that will take place next month.

Following are the topics that were discussed:

- Nominations for officers will occur in October, and elections in November. **Eric** announced that e-mail ballots would be sent this year to members with e-mail, and those without would be mailed ballots. The members present approved this.



Continued on page 3)



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23) Are fiberglass roofs common? My used trailer had one, and in an accident it was a literal lifesaver for my mare. With the trailer on its side, and me alone, I could break away the fiberglass to get her out. I am having trouble finding another one like it.

I like fiberglass roof construction, too, which is why we have it on our EquiSpirit Trailer. Besides the advantage you mentioned, fiberglass does not get sharp if it tears in an accident like metal does, and cause more injury to the horse. Also, because it's not much of a heat conductor, it makes for cooler temperatures

inside the trailer.

All fiberglass roofs are not created equal, however. I believe there should be a strong frame molded into the fiberglass to act as a roll bar effect if the trailer should turn over. Fiberglass itself is not strong enough to hold up to a rollover.



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- Nearly all the questionnaires expressed a desire for more activities that included a meal or potluck. Another point that nearly all questionnaires mentioned was the desire for more local day rides.

- More presentations by members or guests on horse related concerns.

- The club's statement of purpose was read and it was felt that it needs to both shortened and revised. This lead to the question that if we are only a riding club, should we dissolve our connection to BCHW? The general consensus was to retain that connection since we are in

agreement with the political goals of BCHW. **Lee Munroe** volunteered to take a stab at re-writing it for the club's review at the next meeting.

- How can we shorten the meetings? Some suggested doing away with the separate committee reports and having the Vice President give a short summary at each meeting.

- Possible changes to the structure of club offices were discussed. Should we eliminate some of the offices? Which ones? Should the duties be changed?

-Should the format and frequency of meetings be revised? Quarterly rather than

monthly meetings were discussed. Perhaps the officers should function more as a board of directors to plan and schedule club rides and activities, and committee reports should be published in the newsletter.

Good of the Order: No comments given

Treats for the next meeting: **Carrie & Barry** will provide the treats for the October meeting.

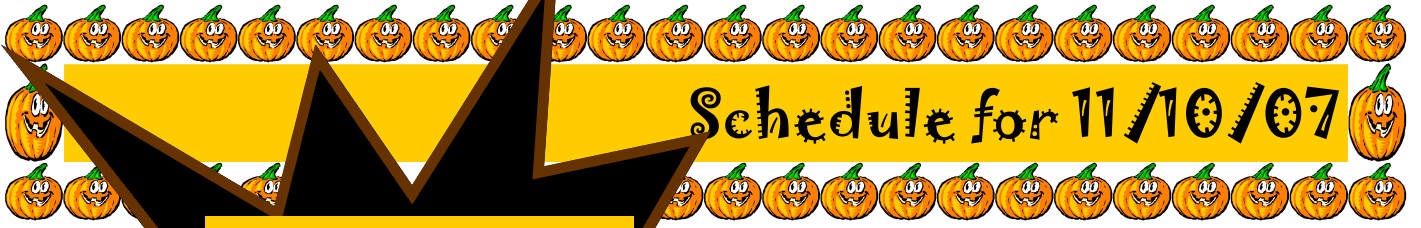
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Barry Russell, Vice President filling in for **Ritz Duchesne**



Capitol Riders Subject-to-Change-At-Any-Moment 2007 Ride / Activity Schedule (changes in red)

Date of Event	Activity and Location	Trail Boss
Sep 15	Trail Maintenance—possibly suspended	Jeff LaBreck
Sep 22	Green Mountain Ride	Carrie Russell
Oct 20	Trail Maintenance	Jeff LaBreck
Nov 10	Equine Dental Clinic 3 Spaces Available! At Trails End	Donna Thorson 360-481-5963
Oct 27	Harvest Party / Potluck	Nina & Gordy Merklin
Dec 15	Holiday Party / Potluck	Shelly & Eric Anderson



Schedule for 11/10/07


Equine Dental Clinic
 scheduled for November 10,
 2007 at the Trails End.
 Contact Donna @ (360) 481-
 5963 or
 thorsondj@comcast.net to

8:00	Ritz Duchesne
9:00	Karen Johnson
10:00	Karen Johnson
11:00	Nina Merklin
12:00	Nina Merklin
1:00	Betty Reichel
2:00	VETTER CATCH UP
3:00	<i>Open</i>
4:00	<i>Open</i>
5:00	<i>Open</i>

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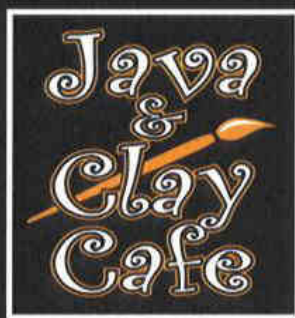
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Hunting Season Approaches

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Vice President

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360-438-1873

Secretary

Ritz Duchesne
360-438-1805

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Soon-to-be-Vacant

Newsletter Editor

Donna Thorson
360-481-5963

Production

Assistance

**Capital Business
Machines**

Fall is on the way and with it comes the hunting season. Right now is the time to think about this and how it will affect your riding in the next few months. Depending on where you live, the season can start as early as August.

Since both trail riding and hunting are often done on public land, the two activities have the potential to collide. I know of many riders who stop trail riding during this time. The most common reasons to stop riding are: fear that the noise of a gunshot will spook their horse; possibly having their horse confused for a game animal; or an errant shot striking them or their horse.

How can you be safer?

Hunting accidents are actually quite rare given the number of people participating in the sport. Yes, each year we will read about some hunting accident that has occurred, but there are far more "horse accidents" and horse related deaths in our sport than in the sport of hunting. Most accidents that happen in the hunting field do not involve horse and rider.

Knowing this should put into perspective how little chance there is of being shot at by a hunter compared to having a horse related accident of any kind. However, I also know that it's the fear of what might happen that most often causes people to stop riding. A hunter is responsible for not only recognizing his target but also for knowing what's beyond the target should he miss. I believe most hunters follow this practice, or we would see a dramatic rise in hunting-related accidents. However, if a hunter can't SEE you, then he can't know you're there. Terrain has a lot to do with how far a bullet will travel. Obviously, in open spaces, a bullet can travel farther than it could in

wooded country. However, in either place visibility is the key. While the scope of this article is not to discuss bullet's flight and trajectory, you should have some understanding of it. What many don't know is that a bullet has a trajectory and if fired from a rifle held level with the ground (as opposed to firing it in the air) that trajectory will not carry a bullet as far as some people would imagine. Gravity and the slowing of the bullet's speed cause it naturally to fall to the ground. But given that the bullet might travel farther than the intended target, the important thing is that a hunter be able to see you and recognize that you and your horse are in the background before he fires a shot.

How can you make yourself and your horse more visible? The best way to do this is with the same colored material that hunters use to protect themselves. It's known as "hunter orange." It was chosen because it is highly visible under many circumstances and the faded lighting of dawn and dusk, and there is virtually nothing in nature that resembles it. Certainly there is no animal with a similar color in its coat. Many people seem to think any bright color or light color will help them be more visible and that simply isn't true. White is a dangerous color since it looks like the white that is found in the coat of many deer, especially the "whitetail". Medium yellow is similar to the coat on an elk. Red actually loses its light reflective qualities earlier in the evening than other colors. Bottom

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 Line -- wear hunter orange during the hunting season.



So the next question is where to find the material, and how to use it in a real world application. Also what to use and what not to use. You need different products to protect you and your horse.

The easiest piece to choose is a vest made of hunter orange material/ plastic which can be purchased anywhere safety clothes are sold. All sporting goods stores or catalogs that carry hunting supplies will have something that will fit the bill. A simple traffic vest will also work and is totally waterproof. Cabelas catalog has items designed for women as well as men. Also in Cabelas are items for the pack string or the trail horse. There are hunter orange covers for cowboy hats, pommel and saddle bags -- all made of hunter orange. You can

find them at www.cabelas.com. Now that we have some things for you and your saddle, the next task is to outfit your horse. There aren't many things that are made of

hunter orange to go directly on your horse; however, you can make a few that will serve you well. Any fabric store will have some type of material in hunter orange. Sometimes they have it in the fleece or "polar tech" type of material.

Purchase a yard and cut yourself some "polo" style wraps. Wrap at least two of your horses legs with the material (using diagonals i.e. right front, left hind). That way anyone looking through a brushy area and noticing "brown" legs won't mistake them for an animal they are hunting.



You can also do a nice tail wrap, which I highly recommend. You can make a saddle blanket cover but extend the hunter orange to go well back over your horse's hip. You can even make a hip cover by simply putting grommets in the material (similar to the grommets in a tarp) and then attaching the hip cover to your saddle strings. If you ride English, simply sew a hip cover to the back of your saddle pad and let it extend out over our horse's rump. Use the same material to make narrow tubes to slide onto your bridle or halter. With your horse having hunter orange on its head, legs and hip, and you wearing a hunter orange vest, you will be clearly visible to all.

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- 10. 'YES' answers to Questions 3 on if you participate in Social Events = 15 or 90% of survey responders
- 11. 'YES' answers to Questions 5 on if you participate in Trail Rides/Campouts = 16 or 95% of survey responders
- 12. 'YES' or 'WHEN I CAN' answers to Questions 2 on if you attend club meetings = 14 or 80% of survey responders

These survey results indicate

that the same members are doing the same things, and there has been no change in Capitol Riders participation as a result of attempts of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs to energize club participation. So, I believe our club survival is a lame duck going into the 2008 season.

As another (hopefully) change to the good: we'll have a nomination of Officers by mail (or e-mail), each Nominee to be called for acceptance of his/her nomination, with nomination results, additional nominations and seconds to be held at the

October nomination meeting and posted in the November Hoofbeats. Additionally we'll send out the Officer's election ballots prior to the November meeting with the write-in election results (mail or e-mail) and additional elections (if necessary) results to be held at the November election meeting and results to be posted in the December Hoofbeats.

Once again ride hard and ride safe,

Your Prez

Eric D. Anderson



Treats for October

Barry & Carrie Russell

October Birthdays



- 7—Mel Davidson
- 10—Kathy Bilheimer
- 21—Eric Anderson
- 21—Bob Duchesne
- 27—Cindy Holden
- 31—Steve Russell

2007 Capitol Riders Meeting Schedule

All meetings are the **second Tuesday** of the month, **7:00 p.m.**,
Littlerock Fire Department
10828 Littlerock Road SW
Olympia WA 98512

January 9, 2007	July 10, 2007 No Meeting
February 13, 2007 Speaker: Christine Redmond, DNR	August 14, 2007
March 13, 2007 Speaker: Ken Parrish	September 11, 2007
April 10, 2007	October 13, 2007
May 8, 2007	November 13, 2007
June 12, 2007 Speaker: Carrie Russell	December 11, 2007

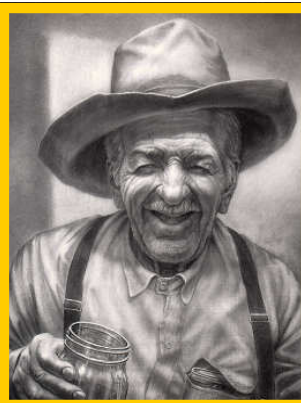


Backcountry Horsemen of Washington



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prick...

