

CAPITOL RIDERS



OLYMPIA, WA.

Hoofbeats - September 2011

General meeting Oct 4th, 7pm
Tom-Tootie Coffee, Connie Treats

Things are winding down for the year. The camp outs are done with only scheduled and impromptu day rides to go. This is just as well as the rains have come and snow had been recently forecasted to drop to 5,500 feet in the North Cascades.

The White Pass weekend was cancelled for lack of willing participants. Who knows, those going may have had to compete for parking with hunters. And to my knowledge, no one made it to Buck Creek for the Meridian Riders Prize Ride. Carrie and Barry did go to Keenes though.

Traci is planning a ride to Marmot Pass in the Quilcene on October 10th. It's her day off and less vehicles to contend with at the trailhead. Not a lot of parking space. Traci plans on leaving early. This ride (or hike if you are a hiker) is a must do for the Olympics. Roundtrip length is 10.6 miles. Most of the elevation gain is at the end, from 3500 to 6000 feet. Call Traci at 360-490-2878.

With the fire danger passing it's looking good for an Oakland Bay chapter work party at Kennedy Creek sometime this coming month. We'll know more at the general meeting.

For those needing passes to ride the Fort Lewis properties, the link on the chapter web site is working again. If you don't use it to make an appointment they've been turning you away at the main gate. The site can be slow or fast. When it's slow it really is sllloowwww. So be patient, it'll work.

We had a very informative presentation by Vivian Eason at the September 6th meeting. Vivian provided many handouts and spoke about dealing with pets and livestock in emergencies. Thank you Vivian!

Speaking of being prepared - some of you live in areas that can be at risk for grass fires. Do you have a plan to move ALL your animals to safety? Are you Fire-

wise? (have you protected your structures from wildfire by cutting trees and shrubs back from the buildings, trimming lower limbs from trees and generally making it much harder for fire to reach the structures?) See firewise.org for more information.

Sandra White has a volunteer opportunity for you at the Northwest Equestrian Center in Rainier on the October 1st. You'll need to be there at 6:45 am. Give Sandra a ring at 360-888-9686.

The Green Mountain day ride is on October 8th. There are 30 plus miles of trails. Barry Yoseph is trailboss. Call Barry at 360-951-2093. Directions to the Gold Creek trailhead are on the web site and on page 2. Remember your Discover Pass as well as chair and lunch!

October 11th, 3 to 7 pm, is a WSTC trail conference at the Lacey Community Center on Pacific Avenue east of Carpenter Road. Advance registration is required and a nice representation from equestrian users would be beneficial. You'll need to use a computer, no phone. Go to <http://form.jotform.com/form/91920015744> to register and there will be free pizza!

National Mule Day is October 26th and the Capitol Forest closes to horses for the year on October 31st. It will open again on May 1st.

Ritz Duchesne has planned a dental clinic on November 19th at her property on Spurgeon Creek Road. Appointments start at 9 am. Call Ritz at Cell: 608-449-0319 or home: 360-438-1805.

Always, always be aware of your location. Connie Bailey recently sent out an email telling of how an older friend fell off his horse and needed medical assistance. Scatter Creek now has address numbers on the power poles so glance at them going in. For those with GPS, local 911 dispatch can take coordinates if that is all you have.

Events - partial to the end of the year

October

Date TBD - Oakland Bay work party - Kennedy Creek, Traci Koch 360-490-2878

1 - Volunteer opportunity at NW Equestrian Center event 6:45 am, Sandra White 360-888-9686

1-2 - Tack Consignment Sale - Thurston County Posse Clubhouse 5949 Maytown Rd SW 9-5 on the 1st, 10-2 on the 2nd, Ione at ionenron@fairpoint.net or 360-446-4610

4 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm

8 - Capitol Riders Green Mountain ride

8 - Safety Preparedness Fair - Littlerock fire hall, Vivian Eason 360-786-5243 wk

10 - Marmot Pass - Olympics 10.6 miles rountrip, Traci Koch 360-490-2878

11 - Washington State trail conference - Lacey Community Center 3-7pm, advance registration required

26 - National Mule Day

31 - Capitol Forest closes to Horses

November

1 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm

6 - Nisqually Chapter ride JBLM Area 13, 11 am, pass required!

19 - Dental Clinic, Appointments start 9 am at Ritz Duchesne, Spurgeon Crk Rd, Cell: 608-449-0319 or home: 360-438-1805

December

Date TBD - Chapter Christmas Party - Rob Keyser's barn

2 - BCHW, USFS & State Land Managers meeting Ellensburg

3 - 4th Qtr BCHW Board of Directors meeting Ellensburg

6 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm - subject to cancellation

13 - National Day of the Horse

Green Mountain ride October 8th

Directions : From Olympia - Take SR 101 north to Shelton. At Shelton take SR 3 north to Belfair. In Belfair - continue past the SR 300 intersection to the stop light at "NE Old Clifton" and turn left. Go one block and turn right on the "Old Belfair Highway". Continue north approximately 3.4 miles and turn left on "NE Bear Creek Dewatto Rd". Continue about 3.1 miles. Turn right on "Gold Creek Rd W". Continue about 2.3 miles and turn right into "Gold Creek Trail head." parking lot 47.551178N, 122.827279W (10 T 512996 UTM 5266432) WGS84 datum (drive time from Olympia about 1 hour 50 minutes with trailer)

No potable water. Certified weed seed free feed is recommended. Discover Pass is required.

GPS, Map and Compass class

It's time to start thinking about this again as we'd put it off until winter when things slowed down. It had been decided to hold it at Tom and Tootie's as they have a wide open view over the water. This way we can more easily align our maps to distant landmarks.

The date will likely be a Saturday and in daylight. If you've been waiting for this it is suggested you clear your calendars. We can discuss at the general meeting.

BCHW Capitol Riders

Meeting minutes

Littlerock fire hall 9/6/11 7 pm

Call to order: In Dean's absence, Vice President Laura Kingman called to order the regular meeting of the Capitol Riders Chapter, BCHW at 7:00 PM on 09/06/2011 in Littlerock Fire Hall.

Introduction of Guests: Angelle Hickman - Cindy McAllister our new member, Gene & Gary Montgomery and Jerry Wade.

Attendance Last Meeting: 25

Approval of minutes: Connie Bailey - Connie read the August minutes. A motion was made to approve as read and seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurers Report: Traci Koch

a) Club is solvent.

b) Petty Cash-Angelle Hickman is in charge of petty cash.

Newsletter-Web Site: Chris Enrico

Chris submitted an article to the BCHW Trailhead News for the September/October 2011 issue. Chris also has mailed out 6 news letters each month.

Activity Committee: Laura Kingman

Ride Committee: White Pass Horse Camp Sept 16-19-- Trail Boss, Tom, Tootie Crowson & Barry Yoseph. Directions on the web site.

Sept. 11th Buck Creek Prize Ride reminder. Highly recommended by Sandra White who attended their 2010 event. Sanctioned by Meridian Riders.

Sept. 12 Kennes Camp Out --Trail Boss, Barry & Carrie. Not a scheduled ride. Call if you want to go.

Oct. 8th, Green Mountain day ride --Barry Yoseph traiboss.

Work Parties: Jeff LaBreck

Sept. 10-11 Work on Greenline 6A reroute. Working on the bridge and trail. Volunteers will meet at Margaret McKenny trailhead at 9 AM, both days. This work is being done for the grant funding that we obtained from BCHW this year. Contact Jeff if you are planning to attend.

Traci Koch - Need volunteers for work party at Kennedy Creek-Oakland Bay Chapter. Will discuss at the October meeting and determine what would be a good date, in October, for our membership to participate.

Ways & Means: Dean Hartman & Tom Crowson

Advertising: no activity

Raffle Tickets: Angelle Hickman

iGive: Connie Bailey: quarterly reports - Traci awaiting 2nd check.

Social Events: Anita, Connie and Nina

Carrie & Barry Russell - Hosting Brunch/Ride on Fort Lewis on September 25th @ 9-9:30-RSVP

Membership Correspondence: Chris E, Connie B

Legislative: Judy Francis & Dean Hartman. Current Information posted on web site.

Director: Jeff LaBreck - Public Lands

Oct. 11th -9 AM, Lacey - Washington State Trails Conference, Our presence is important. Sign up to attend. Jeff will send an email with details. Also mentioned that BCHW needs a legislative chair. Jeff will also hand over to Chris the

chapter historical information and display board. Reminder to purchase 2012Calendars.

Old Business:

Submit comments to Legislative committees / multiple fees. GPS class tabled.

New business: 30 Minute Presentation by member Vivian Eason on Emergency Planning for Pets. Vivian works for Thurston County Emergency Management, She provided handouts and gave a very informative 30 minute safety preparedness overview. Discussion information on: 1) Sept. Fire Safety Week 2) evacuate household pets 3)Overview plan important by each person 4)Disaster Warnings-Storms, flooding can be viewed on Facebook/Twitter. 5) Communications via ham radio's & much much more! Vivian is on our web membership list for contact information. She also mentioned this would be an important time for BCHW to form a relationship with Fort Lewis and will check into finding a contact for us. A few special dates: Sept. 12- Map Your Neighborhood; Oct. 29th Safety Expo at St. Martins University.

Treats & Coffee for October Meeting: Tom & Tootie Crowson (Coffee) & Connie Bailey (Treats).

Adjournment : Laura Kingman adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Connie Bailey

Minutes approval by: Membership on _____

Chicken Jambalaya

Serves 10

Prepare the chicken and sausage at home and freeze in Zip-loc bags, along with the broth. Chopped onions and green peppers can also be done in advance. A double batch will squeeze into a 12" Dutch oven. Shrimp can be added or substituted for the chicken. Wild rice can be used instead of long-grained rice.

1 broiler-fryer chicken, 2 1/2 to 3 lbs. - remove bones and skin

3/4 pound spicy sausage links

1 28 oz. can tomatoes

1 cup long grain rice, uncooked

1 onion, chopped

1 green bell pepper, chopped

1 clove garlic, minced

1 sprig parsley, sniped

1 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper

1/2 teaspoon Tabasco pepper sauce

2 tablespoons butter

2 cups chicken broth

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a pre-heated 12" Dutch oven brown sausage and cut into bite size pieces. Remove most of the grease from the Dutch oven.

2. Add butter and sauté onion, green pepper and garlic until tender.

3. Place chicken, sausage, broth, tomatoes, thyme and Tabasco pepper sauce into the Dutch oven.

4. Heat contents to a boil. Stir in rice and reduce heat.

5. Cover and simmer for about 25 minutes or until rice is cooked.

6. Sprinkle with parsley and serve

CHARCOAL HINTS: Use 10 - 12 briquettes underneath and 8 - 10 on the lid.

PREPARATION HINTS: To debone and remove skin of the chicken, place in a large stew pot, cover with water, season with salt and pepper. Heat to a boil and then reduce heat for 45 minutes. Remove chicken from broth and remove skin and debone. Strain and save 2 cups of this broth for the recipe.

Source: Paul O. Mantz-Powers, Northwest Dutch Oven Society

Gutsy Wrangler and Huge Horse Save Boy From Grizzly

September 18, 2011 in **Outdoors**



Erin Bolster, a wrangler for Swan Mountain Outfitters near Glacier Park, poses with her horse, Tonk.

Grizzlies are high profile this year.

A lingering winter and late berry crop kept bears in proximity to humans longer than normal, perhaps contributing to a stream of headlines about grizzlies killing people and people killing grizzlies.

Meanwhile, a young lady on a big horse charged out of the pack of grizzly stories near Glacier National Park. In a cloud of dust, the 25-year-old wrangler likely saved a boy's life while demonstrating that skill, quick-thinking and guts sometimes are the best weapons against a head-on charging grizzly.

On July 30, Erin Bolster of Swan Mountain Outfitters was guiding eight clients on a horse ride on the Flathead National Forest between West Glacier and Hungry Horse, Mont.

"It's the shortest ride we offer," she said Wednesday, recalling the incident. "We'd already led two trips that morning. It's always been a very routine hour-long loop, until that day."

The group included a family of six plus a vacationing Illinois man, who'd booked the trip for his 8-year-old son's first horse-riding experience.

The young boy was riding Scout, a steady obedient mount, following directly behind Bolster, who was leading the group on Tonk, a burly 10-year-old white horse of questionable lineage.

Tonk isn't the typical trail mount. Best anyone knows, he's the result of cross-breeding a quarter horse with a Percheron – a draft horse. Bolster is 5-foot-10, yet she relies on her athleticism to climb into the saddle aboard Tonk.

“He was one of the horses we lease from Wyoming and bring in every year,” Bolster said, noting that she’d picked him from the stable in May to be hers for the season.

“He’s a very large horse – 18 hands high. That intimidates a lot of riders. But I’ve always loved big horses. He’s kind of high-strung and spooky, the largest of our wrangling horses. I like a horse with a lot of spirit, and I was really glad to be on him that day.”

Bolster has accumulated a wealth of experience on and around horses of national and even world class. She started riding at 4 years old, became a pro trainer at 15, graduated from high school at 16 in Roanoke, Va., and ran a riding academy for several years.

Seeking a more laid-back lifestyle, she wrangled in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic before moving to Whitefish three years ago to guide tourists during the summer around Glacier National Park and ski through winter.

“It’s the country, the mountains and the idea of seeing lot of wildlife that appealed to me, ironically enough,” she said.

Bolster quickly racked bear experience, too, although until July 30, it was always at a distance.

“At the peak of the season, we were seeing bears daily,” she said. “The wranglers name them so we can let each other know where they are. Usually the bears just keep feeding in the distance or they run away when we come. Just seeing them is a treat for us and our guests.”

Because they guide around Glacier Park, bear awareness is part of the preparation wranglers get when hired by Swan Mountain Outfitters.

“We go over a lot of wildlife scenarios in our training,” Bolster said. “We learn to watch our horses for signals of possible trouble so we can steer clear.”

That’s the key, she said: Avoid trouble with a moose or a bear.

“We can’t use pepper spray when we’re riding because that could blind the horse,” she said. “And using a gun would spook the horses and probably produce more danger than safety.”

That’s how she went to work that day: a young but seasoned pro rider on a new, huge and spirited horse, unarmed in the wilderness with eight dudes.

“It was a pleasant ride until we came around a corner on the trail and my horse stopped firm and wouldn’t move,” Bolster said. “He never refuses to go, so that caught my attention quick.”

But not fast enough to avoid the spike white-tailed deer that burst out of the brush and glanced off Tonk’s left front shoulder.

As Tonk spun from the impact, Bolster saw a huge grizzly bear crashing through the forest right at the group in pursuit of the deer. Horses panicked and guests grabbed saddle horns for the ride of their lives. “No amount of training could keep a horse from running from a 700-pound charging bear,” she said.

Seven of the horses sensed the danger, peeled out and galloped back on the trail toward the barn. But Scout bolted perpendicular to the trail into the timber packing the 8-year-old boy.

“The deer peeled off and joined the horses sprinting down the trail,” Bolster said. “So the bear just continued running right past me. I’m not sure the bear even knew the roles had changed, but now it was chasing a horse instead of a deer.” The grizzly was zeroed in on Scout and the boy – the isolated prey in the woods.

Adding to the drama, the boy’s father, an experienced rider, could not convince his horse that it was a good plan to ride

to his son's rescue.

"The last thing he saw over his shoulder as his horse ran away was the grizzly chasing his boy," Bolster said.

With the bear on Scout's heels, Tonk's instinct was to flee with the group of horses. But Tonk responded to Bolster's heels in his ribs as she spun the big fella around. They wheeled out of a 360 and bolted into the trees to wedge between the predator and the prey.

"The boy was bent over, feet out of the stirrups, clutching the saddle horn and the horse's neck," she said. "That kept him from hitting a tree limb.

"But all I could think about was the boy falling off in the path of that grizzly.

"I bent down, screamed and yelled, but the bear was growling and snarling and staying very focused on Scout. "As it tried to circle back toward Scout, I realized I had to get Tonk to square off and face the bear. We had to get the bear to acknowledge us.

"We did. We got its attention – and the bear charged.

"So I charged at the bear."

Did she think twice about that?

"I had no hesitation, honestly," Bolster said. "Nothing in my body was going to let that little boy get hurt by that bear. That wasn't an option."

Tonk was on the same page.

With a ton of horse, boulder-size hooves and a fire-breathing blonde thundering at it, the bear came within about 10 feet before skittering off to the side.

But it quickly angled to make yet another stab at getting to Scout and the boy – who had just fallen to the ground.

"Tonk and I had to go at the bear a third time before we finally hazed him away," she said.

"The boy had landed in some beargrass and was OK. Scout was standing nearby."

Bolster gathered the boy up with her on Tonk, grabbed Scout's lead and trotted down the trail.

"The boy was in shock," she said. "I looked back and could see the bear had continued to go away through the woods, but I had another five or 10 minutes of riding before I got back with the group."

Not until she reunited with her riders – all OK and standing in various stages of confusion with their horses – did she start to shake.

"I looked at Tonk, and he was wet with sweat and shaking, too," she said.

She was especially concerned for the boy's father, who probably suffered the most terror in the ordeal. "He was fine, and I got my biggest tip of the season," Bolster said. "My biggest hope is that the boy isn't discouraged from riding. This was a one-in-a-million event."

For the next few days, the outfitter shut down the trail rides and Bolster joined other wranglers and a federal grizzly bear expert to ride horses through the area looking for the bear.

“They tracked it for a long way and concluded that it kept going out of the area,” she said. “Judging from the tracks and my description of how high the bear came up on Tonk, the grizzly expert estimated it weighed 700-750 pounds.

“This was a case of us being in the wrong place as a bear was already in the act of chasing its natural prey. He was probably more persistent because he was really hungry.”

Bolster and the other wranglers vowed to have bear spray on their belts to make sure they can defend their guests during breaks on the ground.

“But when you’re riding, the horse is your best protection, if you can stay on,” she said.

“Some of the horses I’ve ridden would have absolutely refused to do what Tonk did; others would have thrown me off in the process. Some horses can never overcome their flight-animal instinct to run away.”

In those minutes of crisis, the big lug of mongrel mount proved his mettle in a test few trail horses will face in their careers.

Tonk’s mettle moved Bolster. She wasn’t about to send him back to Wyoming with the other leased horses. “Two weeks ago, I closed the deal and bought him,” Bolster said as she was wrapping up her 2011 wrangling season. “After what he did that day, he had to be mine.”

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/sep/18/gutsy-wrangler-huge-horse-save-boy-from-charging/>



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Come Join Us!

To join or renew your membership with BCHW, complete this application:

- Please PRINT LEGIBLY.
- Sign the LIABILITY RELEASE (all members over 18).
- Make checks out to CAPITOL RIDERS.
- Give or mail the application to Chapter Treasurer:

Traci Koch
 61 SE Craddick Road, Shelton, WA 98584



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: _____

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- Contributing \$65.00
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State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)

Additional State Donation \$ _____

Subtotal A \$ _____

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Name (or Independent): _____

Capitol Riders

Chapter Dues - Single \$10.00
 - Family \$15.00 \$ _____

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.


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