

**Capitol
Riders**

Hoofbeats

Volume 4, Issue 6

September 2007

Tid Bits From Your Prez

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So now it's August and fall seems to already be in the air and early this year. This may be a month of reckoning for our club. Seems we have gravitated to more of a social club and than a riding club. The numbers suggest that we have 40-50 members at social activities and 10-12 or so members at rides and campouts. Another observation is that these same riders mostly attend club meetings, making the average attendance somewhat low. Lastly, it seems that the same members that attend campouts/rides and meetings also are the people that continuously become the officers and chairpersons of the club. So, a core handful seem to be doing it all year after year.

This Tidbits is therefore a plea to members to attend the meetings, participate in running the club or there will be nobody to elect or appoint in a year or 2 come November elections. Most of the officers and chairpersons have graciously indicated they would continue for another year or so. But it is safe to say

that most have served for years and are a little tired. If we're going to continue as a club, we're going to need a more active membership.

As a result of our last officer's meeting, we've crafted five fundamental Changes and a five part Plan to try and energize our club into action and participation.

The fundamental Changes are:
1. Find a replacement for the Hoofbeats Editor Donna Thorson ASAP while she is still available to help train someone. As it stands currently, Hoofbeats will end publication with the December issue.

2. Combine the roles of club Secretary and Treasurer
3. Request that Officers and Chairpersons serve at least 1 more year
4. Reduce and/or combine Committees to a smaller, more manageable number
5. Schedule more day rides for those who can't do the campouts

The five part Plan is:

1. Outline the club problem in

the August Tidbits from the Prez
2. Secretary Ritz Duchesne will develop and distribute a Questionnaire in August to all members to solicit comments and suggestions on what we can do better in order to stimulate attendance and participation
3. Forgo the Presentation for the September club meeting in favor of a Special Topic, "The Future Of Capitol Riders" where we will discuss the Questionnaire results and set the stage for keeping Capitol Riders alive and growing. Please, all members set aside you time to attend this very important September 11th meeting.
4. The October club meeting will be the nomination of Officers
5. The November club meeting will be the election of Officers and the appointments of the Chairpersons
I hope to see you all in September and once again ride hard and ride safe,

Your Prez

Eric D. Anderson

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Minutes from August 14 Meeting	2	Butt Scratcher Sold!	8
2007 Ride / Activity Schedule	4	Ride at Kalama	8
Horse Trailer Safety (22 of 23)	5	US Rider Urges Horse Owners to Minimize Environmental Impact	8
BCHW Annual Meeting	6	Kalama Club Ride Pictures	10
11/10/07 Equine Dental Schedule	7	Directors' Meeting	11
Ft. Lewis Pictures	7	Classified Advertising Rates	12

Minutes from the August 14, 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. There were no guests in attendance.

Eric started the meeting with a discussion about the direction of Capitol Riders for the future and the election of officers that will take place in the fall. The September 11th meeting will focus on this topic. All members are encouraged to attend. A questionnaire seeking information from members will be sent in the near future. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire and return it to **Ritz Duchesne**.

Carrie Russell presented the topic of Trail Etiquette to those in attendance. She had numerous tidbits about the "Rules of the Trail" that were helpful even to the experience trail riders. One item was the marking of horse's tail on the trail. I believe we all know that a red ribbon means the horse could be a kicker so beware. But I also learned that a green ribbon in a horse's tail means that the horse or rider is "green" or not used to trail riding. **Carrie** also included trailering tips and camp etiquette suggestions.

Members made suggestions of tips they have learned through experience. It was a very informative discussion.

If anyone is interested in copies of **Carrie's** handout, please contact **Ritz**.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes of the June 12, 2007, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: **Nancy Garred** presented the Treasurer's Report. We have 54 paid members.

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

Following the auction for BCHW in June, **Jeff** and **Betty Reichel** prepared and mailed thank you notes to all BCHW members who helped man the auction and those that donated items available for sale.

Nina Merklin made a motion to reimburse **Jeff** for the amount of the postage. **Mark Holden** seconded the motion. This was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:
Trail Rides/Events: **Carrie Russell** provided an update on the upcoming Club sponsored trail rides. Due to the issues surrounding the construction on I-5, the club decided to change the September 1 – 3 weekend ride from Les Hildes to Elbe Hills. For those unfamiliar with this, it is only about 45 minutes from Olympia. Members could come for a day or the whole weekend. More details will be provided.

The next ride scheduled is for August 16th to August 18th at Mt. Adams. Some members will be meeting on Thursday morning to caravan down together. A pot luck will take place on Saturday night. **Carrie** provided directions to Mount Adams as well trail maps.

The upcoming trail rides for Capitol Riders are:
August 17th-19th: Campout &

Ride at Mount Adams
September 1st-3rd: Labor Day Campout & Ride at Elbe Hills
September 22nd: Green Mountain Ride

Trail Maintenance/Volunteer Hours: **Jeff LaBreck** will be out of commission due to a tendon injury for a period of time so trail maintenance workdays may be suspended for a while. If anyone is willing to coordinate a work party for September 15th, please let **Jeff** know and he will provide guidance.

Jeff's surgery is scheduled for Friday, August 17th. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Please be sure to provide complete information to **Jeff** when updating him with volunteer hours. He needs to know the date (s), mileage if you drive to the location of the work, the type of volunteer hours (meeting or work), whether or not stock was used as well as the total number of hours involved.

Jeff still has a supply of the folding Army shovels. Anyone interested in purchasing one should contact **Jeff**. The cost if \$5 and will go into the club's coffers.

The Nisqually chapter will be sponsoring a work party weekend on August 24-26 at Fall Creek. They will be working on trails and the horse camp. **Jeff** has a schedule for those that are interested.



Social Events:

Shelly Anderson gave an update on the summer cookout at **Steve** and **Emma Russell**'s home. The trails were well marked thanks to **Diana** and the cookout was well attended. Pictures of this event are on the website for those who want to see.

It is time to begin thinking of the Harvest and Holiday parties. The Harvest Party will be held on October 27th at **Nina** and **Gordie Merklin**'s home. This will be a pot luck. More details will be available as the date comes closer.

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.

Membership: There are 54 paid members at this time.

Education: **Dean Hartman** was not available so no update was provided. It was suggested that Capitol Riders provide a CPR training class for members that are interested. **Mark Holden** said that it takes two hours for the training. A special event will be set up for this. **Tom** will work to find a certified CPR instructor and to coordinate the event.

Hoofbeats

Newsletter: The club is still looking for a Hoofbeats editor to begin in January, 2008.

Donna has indicated she is willing to share the knowledge she has gained during her term as editor.

Eric is going to talk with members to see if he can encourage a "volunteer".

Ways & Means: **Joyce Eden** was not available so no update was provided.

Hoofprints Program: **Jeff** is looking forward to getting the results of the Hoofprints program in November. Since we have more members participating than ever before, he is optimistic that this year's results will be fantastic.

Historian: **Betty Reichel** and **Karen Johnson** went to visit **Myrna Conine** to review her collection of historical material for Capitol Riders. A suggestion was made invite **Myrna** to a future meeting to share some of her knowledge of the history of our chapter. They will contact **Myrna** and will select a date.

Co-Use Program: **Tom Crowson** met with representatives from the Friends of Capitol Forest. He has encouraged their members to attend a Capitol Riders' meeting.

Website: **Ken Parrish** has done a tremendous job on the website. All 2007 issues of Hoofbeats have been added to the site as well as several pictures of club events. Members are encouraged to look at the site and provide feedback to **Ken**.

Old Business:

Tom Crowson provided an update on the VIP ride held on July 21st. Only one VIP attended the ride. Tom indicated that a total of 7 riders went on the ride. Another VIP Ride has been scheduled for September 15th. More details will follow.

New Business:

2008 Newsletter Distribution Plan is to have the newsletter emailed to all members who have provided email addresses beginning in January. Like 2007, issues will also be available on the website. For those members without email access, hard copies will still be mailed.

Tom Crowson suggested that we provide cake and ice cream for the volunteers and staff at Little Rock Firehouse at our next meeting. Since this meeting will be on September 11th, he thought it only appropriate to recognize their efforts. **Tom** made a motion for the Club to purchase a cake and ice cream. **Nina** seconded. This was approved unanimously.

Good of the Order:

Betty Reichel has pictures of some of the horses available through rescue. Anyone interested can keep an eye on the emails and website for further information.

Diana Gunderson is looking for a well broke trail horse for a young rider. Anyone with information on such a horse can contact **Diana**.

Treats for the next meeting: **Betty Reichel** will provide the treats for the September meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Ritz Duchesne,
Secretary



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

Date of Event	Activity and Location	Trail Boss
Sep 1-3	Labor Day Campout / Ride / Elbe Hills	Carrie Russell
Sep 15	Trail Maintenance— possibly suspended— contact Jeff	Jeff LaBreck
Sep 22	Green Mountain Ride	?
Oct 20	Trail Maintenance	Jeff LaBreck
Nov 10	Equine Dental Clinic Space Available!	Donna Thorson
TBD	Harvest Party / TBD	TBD
Dec	Holiday Party / TBD	TBD



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Horse Trailer Safety (22 of 23)

22) I will be purchasing a 1 ton truck to haul my horse trailer with living quarters. What are the advantages of 4 vs. 2-rear wheels?

You are referring to a "dually" as opposed to a single rear wheel on your truck.

First of all, determine the weight of your loaded trailer and know the tongue weight. When you purchase your truck, ask the dealer for the manufacturer's Tow Vehicle Guide.

This guide will tell you how much your truck is rated to pull and how much tongue weight it can carry.

If the towing guide tells you that you can haul your trailer with the single wheel axle, then you should not have to have the dual wheel.

If you are close to the load limit, you would want the dual wheel option because it will make the combination more stable from side to side.

There may or may not be a difference in carrying capacity.

Some people feel more comfortable with the dual wheel, and if it gives you more piece of mind to have the dually, then you should choose that option. There are a few disadvantages of the dually.

The extra width on the truck will make it a bit more difficult to find parking spaces if you drive around town in your truck, and the extra tires will be more expensive.



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Expires 12/31/2007

June 2, 2007 BCHW Annual Meeting Monroe Fairgrounds

1. Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm and Bob Gish introduced the Officers and Committee Chairpersons.
2. Dave Swanberg talked about the BCHW financial situation and the need to change to a 501-C3 status, which would allow corporations and members to deduct donations on their taxes.
3. Bob Brooke talked about legislative issues and the value that our lobbyists have for BCHW.
4. Terry Kohl, Bob Shonka and Mike Reedy discussed the Joint Resolution and the Right to Ride Bill.
5. Bob Gish talked about the Cle Elum Horse Park and its value to the horse community and also about the weed free forage issue.
6. Darrell Wallace talked about the Noxious weeds and the importance of BCHW being involved in this issue.
7. Jane Byram commented that LNT is helping to educate about Noxious Weeds.
8. Jeff Chapman talked about the level of grants and the stiff competition for grant money.
9. Dave Jackson talked about the John Wayne Trail sections that DNR turned over to Parks and that the Columbia Plateau Trail has received some funding for construction.
10. Senator Marilyn Rasmussen talked about the importance of volunteer work and how important our work is for the future generations. She was awarded a plaque and an honorary BCHW membership for her support.
11. Representative and BCHW member Judy Warnick talked about the importance of BCHW working to keep trails open in the future.
12. Bob Brooke said that there were about 40 cowboy hats at the 2007 Leg Day and his goal for 2008 Leg Day is 100 cowboy hats.
13. Jeff Chapman talked about how almost every issue that we face is very contentious.
14. Jane Byram discussed the LNT program and how it is being brought to kids and adults in many areas. The LNT Train the Trainer this year will be at Pilchuck Tree Farm. We printed 10,000 LNT Front Country Pamphlets and they are all gone now, LNT is up and running.
15. Heather Moorman said memberships are on pace with last year and that membership cards will be forthcoming.
16. Teunis Wyers reported on the complete revision of the BCHW Bylaws and going from 7 pages to 4 pages in size. The approval process will be starting soon.
17. Randy Darling talked about the BCHA National Meeting and the fact that BCHW has approximately 50% of all the BCHA Volunteer Hours. The 2008 BCHA Meeting will be in Elko, Nevada and the 2009 BCHA meeting will be in Port Townsend, Washington.
18. The BCHW LNT pamphlets have been distributed throughout the US and the Backcountry Pamphlet has been recognized as the best LNT pamphlet that has been produced.
19. Mike Reedy talked about new and better relationships between the BCHA and the USFS.
20. Traci Koch gave out the Annual Awards to the BCHW Members and Chapters that were outstanding in 2006.
21. Bob Gish adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm, an informative and smoothly run meeting.

Jeff LaBreck
Director

Schedule for 11/10/07

**Equine Dental Clinic
 scheduled for November 10,
 2007. Contact Donna @
 (360) 481-5963 or
 thorsondj@comcast.net to
 reserve your space.**

8:00 Ritz Duchesne
 9:00 Karen Johnson
 10:00 Karen Johnson
 11:00 *Open*

12:00 VETTER CATCH UP

1:00 *Open*
 2:00 *Open*
 3:00 *Open*
 4:00 *Open*
 5:00 *Open*

“Fort Lewis, A fun day.” . . . Tootie



Butt Scratcher Sold!



Ride at Kalama by Barry Russell

We had the opportunity to go camping at Kalama this last weekend, July 12-15. For some of our members it was their first visit such as Ritz Duschene and Tom and Tootie Crowson. Our group consisted of the Anderson's, the Crowson's, Ritz, the Merklin's and the Russell's (the younger one) We arrived on Thursday and found the camp almost empty, but by Friday

afternoon the new section was full. We had to save a spot for Gordon and Nina, which became a challenge, since people kept moving our chair we put out to save a spot. The nice thing about Kalama is that since most of the spots are pull-through's, the "Princess Wagons" (as we call those huge massive rigs that take up two

spots each), could easily get in and out of the camp. The weather was very warm most of the time with a few showers on Friday night. We all had a great time, but were overwhelmed by all of the trail devastation that we saw as we rode out of the camp. Many

(Continued on page 9)

USRider Urges Horse Owners to Minimize Environmental Impact

Lexington, KY. (July 12, 2007) - Involvement with horses is the ultimate back-to-nature experience for many of us. However, it can come with a price to the environment. An unpleasant fact for horse owners is that transporting their animals requires the use of heavy-duty vehicles that use more energy than most passenger cars.

The issue of global warming (now commonly referred to as climate change) has several sides. Some people feel that the changes in our planet's climate are due to natural cycles and events. Others believe the changes are the result of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity. Regardless of your opinions on the issue, it's imperative that everyone does his or her part to help reduce or slow the worst consequences of climate change. USRider believes that future technological advancements in tow vehicles will minimize the impact of

vehicles on the environment. However, horse owners can take several steps now to minimize their impact on the environment. "Horse owners can do their part to reduce their fuel consumption with practical travel tips that actually work," said Mark Cole, managing member for USRider. Improve your fuel economy - as well as your safety and the safety of your horses - by following these simple tips:

- Drive more efficiently.
- Keep your vehicle properly tuned.
- Plan and combine trips.
- Choose a more efficient vehicle.

Through its Equestrian Motor Plan,

USRider offers nationwide roadside assistance especially for equestrians. The plan includes standard features such as flat-tire repair, battery assistance and lockout services, plus towing up to 100 miles and roadside repairs for tow vehicles and trailers with horses, emergency stabling, veterinary and farrier referrals, and more.

USRider offers several suggestions for conserving fuel while traveling. These tips work for most vehicles.

A key to maximizing fuel efficiency is to maintain your tow vehicles. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for regular maintenance.

Keep Engine Properly Tuned - Depending upon the kind of repair

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

done, this can result in an average 4 percent increase in fuel efficiency. Replacing a faulty oxygen sensor can improve fuel mileage as much as 40 percent.

- **Check and Replace Air Filter** - Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your vehicle's mileage up to 10 percent.
- **Keep Tires Properly Inflated** - Proper inflation can increase mileage by around 3 percent. An added benefit is that properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.
- **Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil** - Using the incorrect weight can increase fuel consumption by 1-2 percent. Look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives. If your tow vehicle is an older model, consider purchasing a new tow vehicle. New vehicles have more power but use less fuel. Another item worth

considering is to switch from a tow vehicle that uses gasoline to one that uses diesel, as current diesel technology is more fuel efficient.

In addition to maintaining your tow vehicle, USRider offers vehicle operation tips that will help reduce the impact on the environment:

- **Drive Sensibly** - Aggressive driving can lower your fuel mileage by one-third. Sensible driving is also safer for your horse(s).
- **Observe the Speed Limit** - The Department of Energy says that each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.21 for each gallon of fuel. Driving the speed limit has the added benefit of increasing safety.
- **Avoid Excessive Idling** - Idling gets 0 miles per gallon.
- **Use Cruise Control** - Using cruise control (where applicable) helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save fuel. Do not use cruise

control if you are tired or fatigued. In fact, if you are tired or fatigued, you shouldn't be trailering horses.

- **Use Overdrive Gears** - When your engine speed goes down, your mileage goes up. An added benefit is that using overdrive gears reduces engine wear.
- **Lighten the Load** - Remove unnecessary weight from the vehicle.
- **Do Not Use the Tow Vehicle as a Passenger Car**. When not towing, drive a smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicle.

"These measures have a triple benefit - they reduce the detrimental impacts automobiles have on the environment, result in fuel savings for horse owners and improve safety for everyone. That's a win-win-win situation," said Cole.

For more information about USRider and more equine trailer safety tips, visit the USRider website at www.usrider.org, or call (800) 844-1409 or visit www.usrider.org.



(Continued from page 8)

trails were impassable or re-routed in order to get around huge washout areas. There is no longer a Blue Lake Trail Head or a road to the area. Close to the camp, the road had cracked in half and is not drivable, so who knows when that area will be repaired.

The ride to the falls was great with little damage, but when we got there, you could hardly view the falls because of all of the downfall and the walking trail to the falls was not passable either, which was disappointing.

All in all, it was a great weekend---wish you could have been there to enjoy our time with the horses! It was my first time on my horse since my heart attack, so it was a very special time for me. I'm looking forward to many more times in the mountains now that I am getting stronger. This lifting only 10 pounds is really getting to be a drag especially for Carrie, but the next ride will be different.

I want you all to plan to be at the next ride to Mount Adams Horse

Camp on August 16-19, which is one of my favorite spots, so don't miss out!!! We would love to see you all there---just let us know and we will try and use our magic chair to save you a spot!

Happy Trails-----**Barry Russell**



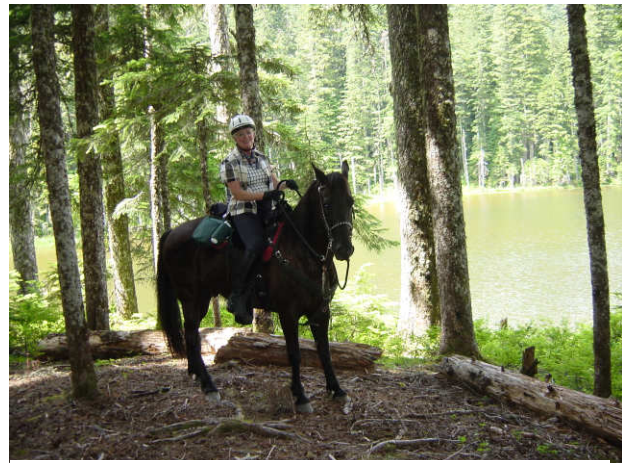


Eric finds the One Finger glove



Lunch at The Falls

Here are some pics from our club Kalama ride.
Tootie



Carrie at Goat Marsh

June 2, 2007 Directors Meeting Monroe Fairgrounds

1. Meeting called to order and roll call taken at 9:15 am by Bob Gish.
2. Bob Gish reviewed the agenda and it was approved.
3. Mike Reedy had been elected BCHA Chairman and Trygve Culp was elected to fill the vacant position of BCHA Alternate Director.
4. Dave Swanberg volunteered to head up a committee to decide on a date and location for the 2008 and 2009 general meetings.
5. The new BCHW mission statement will be the same as the BCHA mission statement and chapters will need to adopt a similar mission statement.
6. Bob Brooke gave his Legislative Report and discussed the passing of the Right to Ride Joint Memorial that was Passed by the Legislature.
7. Dan Chappel reported on the VIP Ride on Aug 4 & 5 at Conrad Meadows.
8. Terry Kohl talked about legislative issues and pointed out that the Right to Ride Joint Memorial was the first bill passed in the State and Nation that was introduced by a Backcountry Horseman Organization.
9. Jeff Chapman reported that because of last winters extensive storm damage, lack of funding in the USFS is a big issue and they are reviewing the camps for possible closure.
10. Bob Gish reported that so far 6 counties have weed-free certification boards in place or being put in place.
11. Randy Darling reported on the BCHA National Board Meeting, Indiana became a State Organization and 4 others became affiliates.
12. Heather Moorman reported that the BCHW membership level is up 3% from the same time last year.
13. A motion was passed to accept for review the application for membership of a new chapter near Chesaw.
14. Darrell Wallace is the new Expansion Chair.
15. Teunis Wyers is looking into how we can incorporate young people into the BCHW and the legal ramifications of doing it.
16. Jeff LaBreck commented on the expansion of horse usage within the Border Patrol and our opportunity to help them with trail clearing.
17. Jane Byram asked about the Green River Mine and the fact that the BCHW position is strongly opposed to any loss of recreation caused by mining.
18. Chapter event lists will have to be turned in to Bob Gish by Nov 1 to be able to be covered by the BCHW insurance for the next year.
19. Bob Gish and Teunis Wyers said that BCHW Insurance will not cover any liquor liability.
20. Michelle Levar talked about the lack of LNT in the Spokane area and the need to recognize the existing LNT Trainers and educate other Spokane people in LNT.
21. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am, a brief, smooth running and efficient meeting.

Jeff LaBreck
Director



Treats for September

Betty Reichel

Classified Advertising Rates for Hoofbeats Newsletter

Business Cards	\$40 / year
1/4 Page	\$20 month / \$75 year
1/2 Page	\$45 month / \$135 year
Full Page	\$55 month / \$200 year
Classified ads, non-members	\$5 month

Ads must be prepaid to
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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 9, 2007

April 10, 2007

October 13, 2007

May 8, 2007

November 13, 2007

June 12, 2007
Speaker: Carrie Russell

December 11, 2007

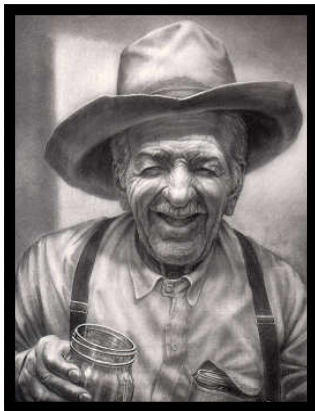


Backcountry Horsemen of Washington



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www.bchhw.org

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