



Horse Tales

The Newsletter of the Methow Valley Back Country Horsemen

DECEMBER 2011

2011 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICES

President: Cathy Upper
(996.3230)

Secretary: Kay McCready
(997.3969)

Treasurer: Gisele Massengill
(996.2359) with Mary Pat
Bauman, membership (996.3552)

Director: Gary Sterner (682.0412)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Alternate Director: Bill Ford
(997.0133)

Education (LNT): Gisele Massengill
(996.2359)

Historian: Jan Ford (997.0133)

Newsletter: Susan Lagsdin
(884.1941) sjlagsdin@yahoo.com

Publicity: Nancy Palagruti
(997.4802)

Sunshine: Janet Shannon
(997. 0235)

Trail Bosses: Bill Ford, Joe Hebert
(997. 3056) and Ken Shannon
(997. 0235)

Volunteer Hours Coordinator:
Donna Stoothoff (997.7004)

Ways and Means: Pete Stoothoff
(997. 7004)

www.mvbch.com
and see us on Facebook

Mission Statement – The purpose of Backcountry Horsemen of Washington is to perpetuate the legal and moral claim by the American people to use horses and mules for recreation on public lands.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

You have probably had your horse's shoes pulled and are getting the snowmobiles tuned up. (I know I'm wondering if the permanent snow will coincide with my hut rentals.) As the seasons change, we can look back on all the fun we had and the work we accomplished. And as we enjoy our Christmas party, I hope you say a thank-you to your co-members and friends for sharing this part of our life together. What a great group of people!

Cathy Upper

Trail Update: The Forest Service's Chewuch transportation plan meeting at Rocking Horse Bakery on November 9 was well attended. They are considering chewing up Falls Creek road and maintaining it as a gravel road. This was a major concern to road bikers as it is the only non-highway hill climb, but the FS feels that it is becoming unsafe.

Newsletter: The editor, sensing a lack of interest from any individual chapter member in taking over the task, will produce "Horse Tales" from February to July of 2012. She will then happily coach the next volunteer editor in some writing and production basics.

Election of Officers: All 2011 MVBCH officers have agreed to stay on for 2012 for the sake of continuity. They will maintain their current jobs, and a ballot election "for the record" will be held in January. Thanks to all who have decided to stay

Members: We currently have 124 members, a few from out of the area, most supportive but seldom seen, many active in some way, several present at (almost) every meeting, and every single one a point of pride for our chapter. Thanks for joining MVBCH! Your 2012 membership form can be found inside.





Happy Hour starts 4:30

Dinner to follow

Twisp Senior Center

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

MVBCH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Punch provided, or BYOB

Potluck Appetizers

Ham Entree by Two Darn Good Cooks

Potluck sides OR dessert (table service is provided)

Gift exchange -- a wrapped gift, handmade or under \$15

(Door prize! with canned food or \$\$ contribution)

Festive Food Member Awards Socializing Celebrating

Free to current and prospective members. Others? \$7 suggested donation
R.S.V.P. TO Janet Shannon (509.997.0235) by Tuesday December 6

MVBCH MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Meeting called to order by President Cathy Upper with 21 members present

Minutes from the October meeting were approved with the following corrections:

Trail Report, posts and rails were hauled in to Robinson Creek

The South Creek Bridge plaque was placed

Director's Report by Gary Sterner:

There are a lot of pre-purchased calendars left to sell. The next Director's meeting will be held Dec. 2-3
State Club Rendezvous will be March 16-18. Please email Gary names of anyone you want to recommend
for state awards (see BCHW Trailhead News)

Volunteer Hours Report by Donna Stoothoff: The report is ready to send to State Chapter

Treasurer's Report by Giselle Massengil:

The Profit and Loss Statement was passed around for inspection. The 2012 Budget Proposal is being
readied this month. Assess any needs and changes in budgeting from last year's committees.

Old Business:

Cathy said there has been no response from the Forest Service to her Loup Loup Horse Camp enquiries.
A new proposal to put the camp by the gate of the ski area met with no interest by Lou. The Forest Service
is not giving any sites at this time. They have no way of assessing the amount of use of our current Twisp
River site. Mary Pat Bauman has contacted the DNR regarding property just off the Sno Park.

New Business: Melton Utley to host saddle cleaning Nov. 12.

Although there is a December business meeting posted, it will be held at the Christmas Party Dec. 10.
Election of Officers needed for next year. As there are no competing candidates, we will vote on them at
January meeting rather than send out ballots. The Christmas Party awards were discussed with a unanimous
"yea" vote on continuing patches as awards. Gift Certificates were recommended for larger awards, all
agreed. Cathy Upper recommended there be no auction for the Spring Ride next year. We will discuss this
at the January meeting.

January 5 meeting agenda: election results, 2012
budget, calendar decisions, and Spring Ride. (Pres note:
It's very important for members to come and help decide
whether we are going to have an auction or not.)

Minutes submitted by Secretary Kay McCready.



PARTING SHOTS . . .



GOT MORE PICTURES? Let's liven up our February "Horse Tales" with some warm-weather photos: rides, landscapes, horse portraits, chapter members working or playing together. Our historian and webmaster can use them too. Send your photos digitally with who-what -where details.

Tack Cleaning (above). Melton Uteley's warm barn made a great place for a determined group to remove the summer's grime from their gear. Saddle soap did its job and now, sadly, all of it will be put away to wait until spring. The late October **Latte Ride** (below) -- Brown's farm to Mazama Store via suspension bridge -- again attracted a big cheerful group of riders with a yen for mild adventure and a really good cuppa joe.



WINTER WISE: GOOD HORSEKEEPING

You've probably made your choices about trimming feet to keep out snowballs, blanketing or not, brushing to help insulation, stabling or free range with shelter. But here's some vital information that will keep the vet at bay and can save your horses, especially the older guys. Cold weather may affect your horse's digestive system more than you realize. To help prevent a winter colic episode, keep these facts in mind.

A DRINKING PROBLEM. Horses consume less water in colder weather, either because they don't get as thirsty as in the summer or because their water sources freeze over. With insufficient liquid in the digestive tract, food being processed becomes too dry to be moved along by peristaltic action and blocks the intestine. Keep an eye on bucket or trough consumption, and use a water heating system.

GRAIN IS NOT THE ANSWER When the temperature drops, caretakers are inclined to boost their horses' grain rations to meet the increased energy demands of keeping warm. This disproportion of carbohydrates to fiber can upset digestion. Clean high quality hay (2% + of body weight a day) is recommended.

KEEP 'EM MOVING The digestive system depends on body movement to help push food along. At pasture, a horse spends the bulk of his time wandering from one grazing spot to the next. The inactivity enforced by confinement in stalls or small paddocks may slow movement along the digestive tract. Use your round pen, practice bareback riding, go for walks. . .

= temperate water, hay-not-grain, turnout & exercise

Condolences to Cathy Upper and her family on the recent death of her mother, Ann Webster, who had lived in Winthrop for many years.

JOINING UP: EASY DOES IT

Get a head start on your MV BCH involvement, help our treasurer, and avoid late bill guilt. The membership form included on page six in this newsletter is for **2012**, so you can re-join now and avoid the rush (or the procrastination) in the spring.

And, how about giving a copy of this form to a trail-loving friend who'd like to work and ride with us next year?

Liberty 3-Horse Slant Load Trailer.

1989 - 7' high x 6' wide. Double wall construction, drop down windows, sliding windows on rear side, wall mats, padding, floor mats, duel back doors, jiffy jack, water tank. Saddle rack and extra hooks in tack area. Lights in tack room and horse area. Solid floor, two extra tires and spare tire. Tabs good until May, 2012. No big dents. Solid and sound. Kept under cover – needs a paint job. If you are handy, you can save a lot by purchasing this trailer now and repainting for next year. Priced for selling soon at \$3250.00

Call 509-997-3056 – Joe Hebert.

**WISHING YOU
THE VERY BEST OF THE
HOLIDAY SEASON**



MVBCH 2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved that 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 the trails or the experience of the riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other BCHW functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children, or horses. Under Washington state law, an equine sponsor or equine professional is not liable for any injury to, or the death of, a participant in equine activities resulting from the inherent risks of equine activities, pursuant to RCW 4.24.530 (Equine Activity Liability Act)

Print Name: _____ Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

YOUR SIGNED WAIVER MUST ACCOMPANY MEMBERSHIP DUES. ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP MUST SIGN. Parents sign for minor children.

Dues are deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered as ordinary and necessary business deductions. Membership information will be shared with the BCHW and the BCH of America. **Membership Information** (Please print clearly)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Legislative Dist. _____

(check one) Would you like your Newsletter mailed? _____ or e-mailed? _____ Membership is for the 2012 calendar year: January 1 to December 31

New _____ **Renewal** _____ **Family/Couple Membership (State \$49 + Chapter \$5) = \$54** _____

Single Membership (State \$36 + Chapter \$5) = \$41 _____ **Add a Chapter Donation? \$** _____

MVBCH Chapter only \$5 _____ (Your Other BCH Chapter? _____)

[Optional BCHW Membership Contributing \$70 _____ Sustaining \$105 _____ Patron \$255 _____ Benefactor \$505 _____]

Total Enclosed, payable to MVBCH \$ _____

Mail to: MVBCH P.O. Box 902 Twisp WA 98856

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509-996-3148

photos & map see below:

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Susan Lagsdin, Newsletter Editor
1521 Avon Court NW
East Wenatchee WA 98802

MVBCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 4:30 PM

TWISP SENIOR CENTER
