



# Horse Tales

The Newsletter of the Methow Valley Back Country Horsemen

FEBRUARY 2012

## 2012 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) and Linda Seaman

**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](http://www.mvbch.com)

**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.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Here we go again! Another new year of fun, work and rides. The new snow is great to play in, and the plans are just getting started for the Spring Ride "horseplay" to come. So come to our next meeting and help contribute in any way you can. You'll be glad you did. I am working on permits for the Spring Ride (April 27, 28 and 29<sup>th</sup>) and we have all the usual suspects heading the same big jobs as last year, except for t-shirts. I will be gone for the February meeting so Ken Shannon will preside.

(I would like to thank the MV BCH for contributing to the MV Public Funding Alliance in my mother's name. That was a wonderful surprise.)

Anyone want to have a soup potluck before the March meeting?

*Cathy Upper*

## Good News for MV BCH!

*One of our newest members, Linda Seaman, has offered to take over editorship of this newsletter. She'll keep many things the same (like relevant news and clear communication) but will likely bring new design ideas and some additional features for your monthly reading pleasure. Linda is apprenticing for a while; her first solo flight will be the April issue of "HorseTales," and she'll be depending on chapter members for feedback and contributions in coming months.*

Reach her at 996-3665 or [lindahseaman@gmail.com](mailto:lindahseaman@gmail.com)

# MVBCH JANUARY MINUTES

Meeting called to order by President Cathy Upper

**Budget:** Pete Stoothoff presented the 2012 projected Budget to be voted on at next month's meeting. Changes discussed include potential Spring Ride income and needs and Trail Maintenance expenses. Both of these projects were discussed at length. Jan Ford proposed an increase in the budget for Trail Maintenance taking it from the proposed. Newsletter expenses as we now have two potential volunteers for the Newsletter. The vote was unanimous for the changes

**Trail Boss:** Bill Ford raised with the Forest Service the possibility of acting as "Grantor" to hire brush cutting on some of the deteriorating, dangerous trails brought up in the last meeting.

**Director:** Gary Sterner announced 1. We have four calendars left. Those not sold by the end of the night will be sent in for MVBCH. 2. We need to decide what donation we will make to the State Chapter Rendezvous. Bill Ford made a motion to donate, as we have previously, \$350 worth of goods and money. The motion was passed with all in favor that we would purchase a chainsaw as part of this donation and give the rest in cash to support the auction there.

**Treasurer Report** given by Giselle Massengil. She will have the year end balance for the next meeting.

**Minutes** of the November meeting were approved without changes.

## New business:

Cathy U. and Bill F. met with Michael Liu of the Forest Service to remind him of work we have done this year. The following is an excerpt from Bill's letter to Mike.

### Volunteer Hours by MVBCH in 2011 (not including travel time)

Twisp River Trail #440	229 hrs. logout, brushing, tread work
War Creek Trail #408	87 hrs. logout, brushing
South Creek Trail #401	5 hrs. brushing
Robinson Creek Trail #478/Bridge	82 hrs. posts and rails
Falls Creek Trail #518 (Burch Mt.)	28 hrs. logout, brushing
Twisp River Horse Camp	97 hrs. maintenance, manure bunkers, highlines
West Fork Buttermilk #411	8 hrs. logout
East Fork Buttermilk #420	9 hrs. logout
Little Bridge Creek Trail #403	44 hrs. logout, brushing
	Total 589 hours

At that meeting a potential horse camp in the Loop Loop area was again discussed. The only Horse Camp they will support is at the Snow Park on the Loop. There already exists an outhouse. Needed from us are an underground water system fillable with a water truck, fire pits, highlines, and funds for restoring the landscape. The Forest Service would charge the fees and maintain it.



# JANUARY MINUTES, CONTINUED

Falls Creek is currently not being maintained by the Forest Service. Burch Mt. can potentially be repaired now that grazing cattle has been eliminated there.

Betty Wagoner read the proposed event calendar for 2012. This will be reviewed at the next meeting and published in the March newsletter.

Spring Ride news: Cathy Upper will apply for the permit, Nancy Palagruti will be in charge of registration, Jan Ford is in charge of the auction, Sterners manage the lunch, and Ann Port handles the breakfast. Betty Wagoner made a motion to raise the pre-registration fee for Spring Ride by \$5 Motion did not carry. Mary Pat Bauman moved to raise pre-registration fee to \$20 and late registration to \$30. Motion carried.

Nancy Palagruti made a motion to adjourn. Cathy Upper adjourned the meeting

**FEBRUARY AGENDA: approving the budget, finalizing the yearly calendar, and continuing with Spring Ride committee sign up sheets**

MVBCH Members can run free classified ads in this newsletter, as long as the items are horse, riding, or ranch related. You will reach over 100 buyers a month with similar interests.

*Please check our website [www.mvbch.com](http://www.mvbch.com) for a preliminary draft of the MVBCH event and ride schedule. Expect a final 2012 calendar in March.*

## From the Director by Gary Sterner

PNNST stands for Pacific Northwest National Trail, which runs from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean. Mr. Jon Knechtel, Acting Director and Trails Manager for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association at the December BCHW Directors meeting explained the work being done on the trail by a diverse group including BCH. Through last November, 328 volunteers and students combined for 136 work parties and a total of 25,000 hours of labor on the trail for 2011. An example would be the Forest Service project constructing a new trail on Whistler Canyon in Okanogan County. BCH, through a RCO Grant (Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office) hired a contractor to rough in the Trail from Highway 97 up to USFS road 2535-100.

One of the PNTAs SKY crews (Service Knowledge Youth program, which provides students with an outdoor-based work experience blended with academic and trade instruction) worked on the entire segment of the PNNST from Whistler Canyon over Mt. Hull, along the Wilcox Driveway and to the Eden Valley Road. Also, there was an EYC (Environmental Youth Crew) through the BLM, working with Okanogan County to put in rail fencing at the trailhead. I am impressed with the cooperative interagency and volunteer effort shown in the work on this trail.

**OKANOGAN VALLEY CHAPTER  
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**

**Proudly presents**

**CABIN FEVER NIGHT OUT**

**A photo Presentation of Beautiful Okanogan County  
A FREE EVENT FOR THE PUBLIC'S ENJOYMENT**

**Where: Community Cultural Center, Tonasket WA When: Friday, January 27, 2012**

**Time: Doors open at 4:30 PM with displays for your viewing pleasure.**

**Dinner: (optional) at 5:00 PM prepared by members of the CCC \$7.00**

**Menu: Pulled Pork or Vegetable Dish, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Corn Bread, and Beverages**

**Cowboy Stories by Stan Kvistad**

**Slide Show on the Front Country, Back Country and Wilderness**

**Dessert Auction 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

**Donated by Okanogan Valley BCH Chapter members**

**For more information, call 509-486-1107 or visit our [www.ovcbchw.com](http://www.ovcbchw.com)**

**SLAUGHTER LAWS OPENING UP?**

**The American Quarter Horse Association's position on unwanted horses is that inhumane treatment (neglect and abandonment) is the unintended consequence of the cessation of domestic horse slaughter.** The AQHA, with the Unwanted Horse Coalition, supports the USDA's removal of the rider in the 2012 Ag Appropriations Bill that *prohibits paying salaries of employees* to inspect horse-processing facilities. "The funding prohibition that had been in place, preventing USDA from inspecting horse meat, had effectively banned horse slaughter in the United States since 2006. Without the funding prohibition, the processing of equines is now legal in the United States...AQHA believes this is a necessary step to improve horse welfare, as well as the economy of the horse industry" (*AMERICA'S HORSE*, January-February 2012). [Click here to read the AQHA position statement on the Horse Protection Act.](#) Do you know someone with an unwanted, neglected, or abandoned horse? Maybe you can help. [Find out more about the Unwanted Horse Coalition by clicking here.](#)

## WAY BACK IN DECEMBER

At the end of each year we eat heartily, enjoy a riotous gift exchange, and reward the participation of the most active Chapter members who track their hours and report them. At the December 2011 Christmas party, recognition was given to these people: For **H.I.T.S.** Deborah Whittemore reported the most hours and received awards for two levels. 2nd was Betty Wagoner, and Ann Port was a close 3rd. Awards were also made to Julie Johnson and Ted Whittemore.

**ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS** awards were given to Susan Lagsdin (newsletter) Gisele Massengill (treasurer) Nancy Palagruti (publicity) and Jan Ford (historian). **TRAIL WORK HOURS** awards were given to Bill Ford, Jan Ford and Keith Zielke for hours and donations way beyond the call of duty, which improved Methow Valley trails for everyone.



Clockwise from above: Ken Shannon exclaims over something that struck his fancy. Karen Theimer once again congratulates Gisele Massengill on keeping MVBCH fiscally afloat. Jackie Iddings arm wrestles a gift away from Margi Allen and Keith Zielke while Chef Louise Stevens and Carol Hebert enjoy the show. Anna Heathman is pleased to display the gift she's chosen . . . but notice the firm grip!

## H.I.T.S EASIER THAN YOU THINK!

The chapter program commonly referred to as HITS was initiated in 2003 by a committee in hopes of getting more members to be more active. All you need to do is track the hours you are trail riding on your horse, or any horse, for that matter. It can be riding in any area as well as the Methow. Jot down the date and hours onto a calendar -- in your bucket of brushes or posted on your fridge at home -- doesn't matter as long as you keep track! (Don't include round pen or arena time) The hours should be actual "in the saddle" hours, deducting for any significant breaks.

One of the two rules is to participate in one scheduled chapter work party. This can happen at any time during the year. Another simple rule is to attend one meeting. Easy enough.

Those hours are then transferred to the HITS form (find on [www.mvbch.com](http://www.mvbch.com)) to be turned in no later than the November meeting. The hopes were high that this would get more folks involved, getting their hours recorded and showing the use of the trails while having fun participating. One member who lives on the coast gets over for one meeting and work party without fail to keep her HITS record current. This is not a competition *against* anyone - you are just riding for your personal best. Recognition awards are presented in increments of 100, 250, 500, 750 and 1000 hours. For further explanation, or a copy of the form, contact Nancy Palagruti at [nanpal@centurylink.net](mailto:nanpal@centurylink.net) or 997-4802.

## NUTRITION: THE LOWDOWN ON THE INTAKE

An animal nutritionist from Elenbaas Feed Company in Sumas, WA will be leading an educational meeting at the **Twisp Feed and Rental store in Twisp on Friday, March 2nd at 6:00pm.**

Elenbaas has been providing quality feeds and services to the Pacific Northwest for 65 years. The topic is animal nutrition, and can be focused on equine needs if requested. Are you over feeding? Are you under feeding? Find out by bringing all your questions to the meeting!

(Sent by a member after seeing "War Horse." Author unknown)

Look back at our struggle for freedom  
Trace our present day's strength to its source  
And you'll find that man's pathway to glory  
Is strewn with the bones of a horse



# NO FIRES ALLOWED!!

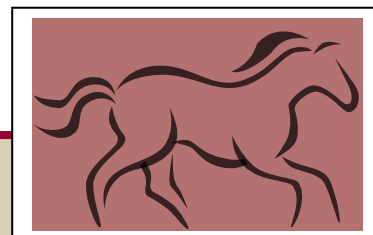
'Tis the season for water tank heaters, space heaters in tack rooms or in the chicken coop and other unexpected fire hazards. The four leading causes of fires in agricultural storage facilities are

heating equipment at 21% (with heat lamps being the largest portion of that, followed by heaters); electrical distribution (wiring) or lighting equipment at 14%; arson at 7%; and lightning at 5%. Sixty-seven (67%) of all barn fires result in the destruction of the entire barn.

Remember, if you discover a fire in your barn, call 9-1-1 before doing anything else. You should only attempt to fight a fire if it is small and contained, and only if you have a clear escape path. A fire doubles in size every 60 seconds -- beyond the early stages, it is time to evacuate the barn. Consider the following checklist to help keep your animals safe:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is at least one fire extinguisher available every 50-feet (mounted on the wall) in the barn?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are aisle ways and doorways clear of debris or "stored" objects?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are cobwebs removed weekly, if not more often?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are all electric motors on both fixed and portable appliances completely sealed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ If extension cords are in use (temporarily only) are they industrial or heavy duty rated?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is all permanent electrical wiring in conduit?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are cages installed over all light bulbs?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a frost-proof water hydrant at or near the entrance to the barn?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is there a water hose long enough to reach the opposite end of the barn?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is hay stored in a shed or in another building at least 100' from the barn?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is stall bedding stored in an area away from the animals?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is used stall bedding (manure pile) kept in an area away from the barn?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have cleaning cloths contaminated with any petroleum product been properly disposed of?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have an emergency animal escape plan?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can fire apparatus reach the barn? (Check road surface, gate and curbs)

(From an October 2008 report from the National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Structure Fires in Barns. The checklist is amended from *Laurie Loveman*, 2008)



## MEMBERSHIP ALERT !!

*When you fill out the 2012 MVBCCH membership form (enclosed) be sure you fill out couple and family individual names for our records and for BCH. And, if possible, opt for emailed issues. They arrive sooner, they arrive prettier, and they arrive with no cost to the chapter!*

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

**MVBCH BUSINESS MEETING**  
**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2**  
**7:00 TWISP SENIOR CENTER**



# 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**