

NICKER NEWS

November 2021

Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

Tony Karniss (360) 748-8640

VICE-PRESIDENT

Deb Wesselius (360) 736-6106

SECRETARY

Marsha O'Neal (360) 880-4684

TREASURER

Lynda Holloway (360) 561-8158

TRAIL BOSSES

Tony Karniss (360) 748-8640

Slim Murdock (360) 520-5588

Leonard Wright (360) 506-1598

DIRECTOR

Tom Conner (360) 269-3804

ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

Sherri Wright (360) 520-6190

GRANT CHAIR

Leonard Wright (360) 506-1598

GRANT LIAISON

Deb Wesselius (360) 736-6106

MEMBERSHIP

Lynda Holloway (360) 561-8158

NEWSLETTER

Sherry Brown (360) 496-4400

WEB MASTER

Jim Thode (360) 978-5336

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Doc Wesselius (360) 736-6106



Letter from Our President

Tony Karniss

As President of Lewis County Chapter of BCHW, the past year has again been quite trying to get trail work done. From starting the year with continued remote meetings and changing Covid concerns, we ended up pulling together and having a successful year.

Despite these limitations, I have been focused on getting more user groups involved to work together. We all have the same goal - to keep all trails open. On our trails that we as a chapter maintain, we are getting more support from several local organizations including [Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance](#) and [Northwest Motorcycle Association](#) and I can see that the collaboration is starting to work well.

I have also been working as a trail collaborative with Upper Cowlitz Valley Trails Coalition for the past two years, and we continue to work closely with [Washington Trails Association](#) and USFS. We keep track of where each group plans to work, and we stay in contact with the USFS which helps everyone understand what and where things are being done.

There is still a lot of work out there, and I would like to encourage all members to join in on a work party for support.

Cont.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

<https://www.bchw.org/>

BCHW Events

CHRISTMAS PARTY

COMBINED LCC-BCHW &
MOSSYROCK RIDERS CLUB

DECEMBER 11, 2021 – 5PM

At Mossyrock Rider's clubhouse

Info: Norma Wright

normad.wright@yahoo.com



NEXT MEETING:

JANUARY 6TH – 7PM Onalaska Fire H.

ONLINE:

Facebook BCHWLewisCounty

Facebook [public.bchw](https://www.facebook.com/public.bchw)

Website <http://lcbch.org/>

Have a story or event to share?

Email sherrybrown89@msn.com.



Tony Karniss, Cont.

On July 8, 9, 10, we completed a collaborative work party at Keenes Horse camp.

We have also had some great accomplishments earlier this spring, including opening up about 6 miles of trails at Burnt Ridge that were destroyed by logging. We built one new bridge, replaced another, and worked on graveling the parking area. Still more to do there.



We have done a lot of work at Packwood Lake getting the trails open, re-planking the main bridge, and bucking a lot of logs out.

I would like to thank everyone for the support.

-Tony Karniss



October & November Meetings - Items of Note

GRANTS – Deb Wesselius reported the last grant finished on October 31st and we're starting work on our new grant.

DIRECTOR – Tom Connor reported the proposed “Re-Imagine BCHW” seems to be heading in a different direction than initially outlined which for our chapter is good news. Apparently several chapters support an executive

MONTANA BCH CHAPTER HAS LUCK ATTRACTING YOUNG MEMBERS

By: Rick A. Mathies
ramathies@centurytel.net

I am President of the NorthWest Montana chapter of BCHMT and would like to share one way we are attracting and maintaining new members.

Our chapter was founded in 2015 with a forward looking group of BCH members who knew we needed to figure out a way to pass on what we know and what we do to the next generation. It was clear that doing the same old things that BCH had been doing for the last 40 years was not working in attracting younger member to our chapters.

We started a program, in 2016, with our local 4-H which just starting out as 4-H Packing and became 4-H Trail & Packing. We quickly realized that Packing alone was not enough information for these kids, it was clear that most of their "arena" horses did not have the skills necessary for back country trail riding safely. So we added the "Trail" part so that 4-H members could learn what their horses needed to be able to do to be safe on trails.

This program started out slow with the 1st year having only 14 kids enrolled, but quickly picked up steam as the word spread throughout the 4-H horse community. By 2021 we had over 35 kids enrolled. So many we are now thinking about having to limit the number of 4-H Kids each year, something we really don't want to do. But to adequately train these students we have to make sure they get enough hands-on training.

This is the reason for my email, I think that this program could be an answer for BCH chapters across the nation to attract younger members to our BCH cause. Many BCH chapters are struggling with how to attract members, especially younger ones. The beautiful thing about this program is all of the parents of these 4-H kids are usually intimately involved in
(continued)

committee being formed versus the original proposal of taking away chapter involvement in leading BCHW. Additionally, 2022 Calendars are still available, get yours for \$10.00. Contact Tom tkranch@toledotel.com

TREASURER: Lynda reported the garage sale made over \$1,200.

ELECTIONS: All the current officers except for Secretary, agreed to remain in their current positions, nobody was interested in running against them. Marsha O'Neal graciously volunteered to run for the secretary position. All the officers were voted in for the next year, the list of current officers can be seen on the first page of this newsletter. The chapter would like to thank Carolyn Stella for her numerous years of dedicated service as Secretary and VP. Job well done, Carolyn!

TRAIL BOSSES: Leonard reported the bridge project at Keenes was completed in one day and was a huge success. No more projects are currently scheduled this year but we do need to start coming up with a plan for the Burnt ridge reroute.

PAST ACTIVITIES: Carolyn stated the garage sale was a success and thanked donors for their items. Deb said we had a great turnout from chapter volunteers for the wine ride and this will garner the chapter a portion of the proceeds.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES: Norma proposed combining our Christmas party with the Mossyrock Horse and Rider Christmas party on December 11th at their club house. Everyone thought this was a good combination so Norma will report back with more information in the coming weeks.

NEWSLETTER: Please send pictures, stories, trail reports, or announcements for the LCC newsletter to Sherry Brown, sherrybrown89@msn.com or cell 360-496-4400. Anything relating to the Chapter is appreciated!



ATTRACTING YOUNG MEMBERS

(continued)

4-H with their kids, most own horses themselves so we get 2 generations at the same time. Many of these families have joined our chapter and are active in our volunteer work.

ATTRACTING YOUNG MEMBERS (continued)

What is staggering is our 4-H youth have contributed over \$188,143.00 to our chapter's volunteer hours since 2018, \$82,979.61 in 2021 alone. I have attached a recent article from the Flathead Beacon regarding our program and what our kids have done and some of their own words. This program is not easy as it takes many volunteers from our chapter to carry out the training, which runs from January through May each year. We are way too busy in the summer to carry this out so we do it in our off months.

This brings me back to why I am writing you, I would be willing to share this concept with your chapters/state organizations. I feel so strongly that this is a possible way to pass on what BCH does, because the alternative just doesn't look good. We have to build a passion in our youth for the trails and back country we so love, so that it will continue to be open to future generations. If you are interested, please contact me.



TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON LEARNING TO PACK – 1ST installment

By: Sherry Brown

LEARNING HOW TO PACK

I always wanted to learn how to pack but I was raising a couple boys and bringing another horse wasn't feasible so it was put on the back

burner. But, even though I didn't know it, I was already learning and practicing important packing skills of ponying horses and teaching my horses to be good citizens. My boys grew and became more and more self-sufficient so now I've been packing for one full season and learned that I really enjoy packing for BCHW.

My journey to becoming a BCHW packer started in probably 2015 when my brother-in-law gave me his pack gear. As with many new things we don't have time to learn, it sat in my tack shed for a good 18 months "maturing." Finally, I had a need. A green horse I was training needed a lot of desensitizing so I dug it out and sat it on top of my horse as I tried to figure out which was the front and back and where to attach all the different straps. I figured it out and off I went ponying my horse on a trail ride. It went great so now I figured I'd just hang the bags and do the same. Wrong! My green horse went berserk with the bags flopping. To the round pen we went for more desensitizing of the bags. Long story short, I ended up leading this horse under pack saddle a lot and she ended up working through her issues and ended up a great riding horse.

My first season of packing was 2019. Unfortunately, I just sold my aforementioned horse so needed to train another. Fortunately, my other horses weren't as flighty and it was much easier.





Therefore, I trained my 15.1 hand Missouri Foxtrotter “Keeper” and my son’s 14.3 hand Missouri Foxtrotter “Mercy” for the season. While I was doing this, my friend Ann Lindh was doing the same with her horses. And finally our first pack trip arrived and we showed up at Green River Horse Camp near Mount St Helens for the Lewis County BCH work party. The leadership hooked us up with Slim Murdock as our mentor

who was packing two horses. We had worked with Slim before clearing trail but no packing. Our assignment was to pack in the tools and materials for a work crew putting in a puncheon about 6 miles down trail. I rode Keeper and packed Mercy. It took Ann and I as long to prepare our one pack animal each as it took Slim to prepare his two and get all the loads ready to pack. While you think you’re prepared, you never are. We picked up our loads and Mercy did great; this was her first pack with a full load of around 170 pounds. And people coming at her from both sides loading her. The second day Ann and I graduated to packing just by ourselves hauling some more tools and food and drinks to another work party. The last day of the work party all the crews needed to be packed out and they were short on packers. Ann and I ended up making two round trips packing out the puncheon work party and covered over 26 miles that day. 26 miles packing is very different from a 25 to 30-mile endurance ride but fortunately our horses were fit enough to take on this task. It sure demonstrated how much BCH needs packers.

My second packing experience was packing in tools and supplies for a Pacific Crest Trail work party working about 8 miles from the trail head. This was a one-day trip at the beginning of the 7-day work party packing in and another one-day trip at the end packing out. Our mentors for this trip were Doc and Deb Wesselius. Again, Doc and Deb were able to prepare their stock and the loads in the time it took Ann and I to just get one pack horse each ready. I hope eventually we’ll get better and faster too. Each time we learned more of what we needed to do to get faster and smoother. For the pack out, Ann had to work so I drug my son along to lead a pack horse so both Keeper and Mercy packed that day.

What I learned from these experiences is that I really enjoy packing and as long as you’re starting with well trained, experienced stock you can just adopt Nike’s motto of “Just Do It.” BCH needs more packers and many of the skills you can practice on your own and when it comes time for the real deal there are exceptional mentors more than willing to help you hone your skills. Now I’m tackling learning and training my horses to be able to pack two horses at a time. Hopefully 2022 sees me on some more packing trips.