



# TRAIL TALK

Northeast Chapter July 2006

[www.nebchw.com](http://www.nebchw.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.

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

**President Jim Hudkins**

I hope everyone is enjoying your summer. It sure seems to be going by fast. So far we have had some rides and work parties. The 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> is another work party and possibly the end of the month too. Carol and I sure enjoyed the fourth with those that came to enjoy a semi pleasant ride and great grits, buffalo burgers and watermelon and other super desserts. It was in the 90's with a little breeze that made it nicer and great company took away the thought of 70's that would have been better.

Do not forget Dana is providing the entertainment at our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Jim is cooking on the BBQ.

I do not know what everyone's thoughts of what it would be like to own a Mustang is but mine were of apprehension and a little fear. I am sure there are those Mustangs that stand up to your worst fears but Duchess has been nothing short of sheer pleasure. It's a learning experience to watch her interact with our other horses. Lady, my 4yr old, is her best friend and mentor. Kimberly's gelding, Drifter, considers her his worst nightmare. We turned her out to pasture with him yesterday and after a little getting acquainted she turned her rear to him and backed him across the pasture just to say stay out of my space. We separated them before it got ugly. I trimmed her yesterday for the first time and it was as if she had been doing this all her life. She has had a couple of baths, leads across tarps and the bridge we used at Ride the West and is just a lot of fun to be with. Oh yes she is now a Cookie Monster. If all else fails we just bribe her with a treat. I will keep you updated on her further development.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be nice to your Farrier.

## Hughes/Jackson Creek Trailhead Project – July 15 and 16

**Go to page 8 for all the details - Come join the fun this weekend! Don't miss the Potluck dinners and relaxation in the evenings. Call Bob Gish (276-6226) for details and directions.**

### General Membership Meeting

July 20, 2006

Williams Valley Grange  
NEW DAY - THURSDAY  
POTLUCK AND PAINTING  
STARTING AT 6:30 P.M.

I'd like to thank all of the hardy souls that gave up their three-day Memorial Day weekend to work in the rain on the Priest Lake District. It was especially tough work for those who rode their critters, as there were numerous trees across the trails, which equated to a lot of up and down off their mounts. Perhaps the rain was a blessing to keep folks and their critters from becoming over-heated? A lot of work was accomplished, some wildlife spotted and thanks to Jim & Debbie Nelson, folks were well fed with delicious grub.

Nine different trails were worked; 36 miles logged out with 320 hours donated. Volunteers from three different chapters helped out – NEBCH, PRVBCH & IEBCH. Your help was much appreciated; there is limited time and money to maintain the 200 miles of trail on this district. Without your help, we wouldn't come near to meeting our goal. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Lu LeMieux  
Priest River RD Trail Coordinator

Work party tally:

40 volunteer days x \$12.00 per day = \$480.00 -  
\$350.00 for food = \$130.00 left to be divided amongst  
the three chapters.

Total of 40 volunteer days with  
28 from NE chapter  
9 from PRV chapter  
3 from IE chapter

## 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ADVERTISEMENTS

Moco is a Palomino Overo two-year-old gelding with black hooves and black eye liner. One blue eye one brown. Standing 15.1. He'll make a good mountain horse as he is bred Mountain Man and his name is BP Moco Dell Mountain. Great mover used to mountains and mountain critters! Very well balanced in color and conformation. Head to die for that ties into a beautiful neck and shoulder. He really walks out. Has been saddled, bridled and longed. Loves attention and ready to go. Quality horse with great bone, straight and true. May trade for trail ready equine. \$2500 (509)954-9068

For Sale: Home Grown Whole Oats-\$0.12 a pound or \$12.00 for a hundred sack. Inquire at 276-6226 or 994-1075. Bob Gish

3 yr old AQHA gelding. Dark Grey, 15.1 hands 1200 lbs. Poco Bueno, Pima Country, and Doc Bar breeding. This big gelding has had trail miles and arena work. He will do anything you ask. He will really get out and take the lead and walk down the trail. If you are looking for a big stout horse you will like him. Easy to catch, haul, and work around. Sound and healthy. Email for pictures to [cotters@intergate.com](mailto:cotters@intergate.com) or call 509-796-2220 or 509-276-5770. \$2500 OBO.

If you have anything to advertise send it to [shonjohn2@earthlink.net](mailto:shonjohn2@earthlink.net) or call 796-4950 by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Advertisements are free. After three months I will take out the advertisement unless you notify me differently.

**Don't forget to contact some of our newsletter  
advertisers should you ever need something they provide!  
They support us so we should support them.**

**Reminder: Aslin Finch Feed Stores gives BCH members  
10% off on any purchase of items not on sale. Lets  
support them since they support us.**

### Advertisers Needed

Looking for advertisers for the newsletter and web page. If you would like to have your business listed please contact a Board member. The cost is \$50 per year for a business card size advertisement in the newsletter and on the web page.

### Newsletter Submission Information

Trail Talk is published monthly. Deadline for submission of articles is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Non-copyrighted submissions are welcome, subject to space limitations. Opinions and views expressed in letters or personal articles are not necessarily the opinions of BCH or NEBCHW. The newsletter editor reserves the right to edit for content, space and language.

If you have a newsletter article or advertisement send it to [shonjohn2@earthlink.net](mailto:shonjohn2@earthlink.net) or call Cathy at 796-4950. No cost for an article or advertisement.

If you would like to advertise your business for one year in the newsletter or on the web page contact anyone on the Board for information.

*If you're not getting your BCHW or BCHA Newsletters please contact Bob Gish at 276-6226.*

## FINAL STATUS OF BCHA-FOREST SERVICE TRAILS CLASSIFICATION LAWSUIT

As many of you are aware, Back Country Horsemen of America recently filed a lawsuit challenging the Forest Service's development of a new trail classification system (TCS) which will be implemented in a way that we believe will reduce our access to trails on the National Forests. BCHA's concern was that the new trail classification system would make it extremely easy for Forest Service personnel in the field to downgrade trails, with no public input much less notice, and thus end up keeping stock off these trails. Despite exhaustive efforts to work with the Forest Service amicably to resolve our issues, the agency simply refused to insert safeguards into the new system and assured us that our predictions of reduced stock use were unjustified. We then reluctantly concluded that our only option to protect our interests was to bring the matter before a judge by filing a lawsuit. Our fundamental argument to the judge was that developing a new trail classification system was something that the public had a right to be involved in, and it should not be left solely to a handful of selected agency personnel who may not have our interests in mind.

In response to our suit, the Forest Service aggressively argued that the TCS was an internal agency matter that did not affect us. The agency misleadingly portrayed the TCS as merely taking "inventory" and that it involved administrative decisions on how best to apply the limited agency budget. In other words, it was none of our business. The problem was that the TCS would *also* serve as the active management guide for how trails would be maintained. Moreover, the TCS created a new trail class that was exclusively for hikers, and would allow field personnel to easily slip trails into this class, especially trails in wilderness areas, with no public involvement.

The judge agreed with us that we have a right under federal law to be involved in decisions such as the one at issue, which involve the trail system. This holding is a critical development in establishing our rights with respect to our trails. Being informed of and having a right to have input in an agency decision is critical to protecting our rights, and before this holding the Forest Service was able to operate behind a curtain. Given her holding, the judge ordered the Forest Service to comply with the law and involve the public in its decision-making process, *before* it made a decision. The Forest Service has indicated to us that, in response to the judge's order, they intend to issue a notice of their intended action and provide for full public comment on the new trail classification system and its impacts.

The key now is to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed. We have engaged lawyers to successfully enforce our rights to be involved (which the Forest Service wanted to deny us), and now it is our turn to make the most of our rights. To do this, it is very important that, through our formal comments, and any other communications that we can make, the Forest Service officials who repeatedly tell us that they support stock use truly understand our concerns. We will use this opportunity to fight for safeguards in the process that protect against secret agency action and unjustified limits being imposed on our use of our trails.

In addition, we as individuals must continually ensure that any re-classification of specific trails is done through a *public process*. The first step you can take is to find out the classes which are currently assigned to the trails in your area and inform your local District Rangers and Recreational Managers that you want to be told of any changes in those classifications. To ensure that you are kept informed, periodically ask for the current trail classes so that the agency knows you are staying on top of the issue. In the event a trail in your area is downgraded, you must actively lobby your Forest and local Congressman or Senator and fight that decision.

For further questions, contact Back Country Horsemen of America Chair Merlyn Huso ([hlazym@usfamily.net](mailto:hlazym@usfamily.net)) or Steve Didier, BCHA Legal Committee Chair, ([steve.didier@gmail.com](mailto:steve.didier@gmail.com)).

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### MT SPOKANE RIDE – July 22 By Judy Clark

On Saturday, July 22, we will meet at the Mt. Kit Carson parking area. Be ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. and bring your lunch. Hopefully, the bear grass is still in bloom. For more information, please contact me at 238-2206.

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**BANDANAS** - \$5.00 each for Chapter Members, \$6.00 for nonmembers, contact Karen Reiner or come to the General Meeting to pick yours out. Many bandana colors to choose from. All bandanas have the BCH logo on them

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ride – at Jim and Carol’s Place

Jim and Carol were nice enough to open up their place and take a few of us hardy soles on a nice ride from their house through the Deer Park Ski Trails. We set out in the heat of the day – did I mention heat – I think it was well over 90 – but the horses were game and so were we. We would stop in the shade to talk, rest and drink lots of water. It was a nice ride with great company. We saw a buck in velvet, a doe and a coyote.

After the ride Jim showed us all what his new Mustang could do. You would never guess this horse was wild 6 weeks ago. She leads, ponies and just plain loves attention.

We all then sat in the shade and exchanged stories and ate until we could not eat any longer. Everything from deer sausage, watermelon, and buffalo burgers was on the table. There were also a couple of wonderful salads. And dessert – well no one could pass on that either!

All in all it was a wonderful way to spend the holiday. The horses all got a bath after the ride and got to eat our watermelon ends. Oh what a treat! I know I went home and slept very well. Also thank you to Carol for letting me ride Cody!!

Cathy Johnson

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## Wild Women’s Extreme Pack Trip

The women set out again this year from Karen Reiner’s house for an overnight stay in the 5 Sisters Mountain Range. There were only a few hardy soles for this one – Karen, Vicki Gish, Debbie Nelson, Kathy Smith, Betsy Price, Nancy Harshman and Cathy Johnson. We left in full rain gear and were told upon our return that there was almost an inch of rain that fell upon us that day.

The ride into the campsite was just beautiful. We had times when the rain was just a wall of water, but we kept plugging along. We went up one canyon/draw and then down another. I have never had so much fun. Well the down part at times I could of passed on – chalk that up to inexperience in the saddle – thanks Frosty for keeping me safe. One thing I know I learned is that you need to make sure you have the right rain equipment and also that all your items are packed to stay dry. Thank you Debbie for letting me borrow your rain pants.

Once we got to camp the rain stopped and it was a wonderful time. We had a wet t-shirt contest – not planned – and the winner will forever remain anonymous. Karen found a wonderful shed that everyone was trying to figure out how to take away. And we sat around the campfire and each shared our meals along with conversation.

This was a lot of fun and I want to thank Vicki Gish for letting me ride Frosty. My first mule experience and I really enjoyed it!

Cathy Johnson



The Doe came to get the fawn after the horses moved on.





## Northeast Chapter BCHW 2006 Calendar Of Events



Date	Event	Details	Contact
07-15/16	Work Party Hughes Meadows		Bob Gish 276-6226
	<b>Hughes/Jackson Creek Trailhead Project: We hope to install a 3 panel kiosk, sign posts, log out trail 311 (Jackson Creek), destroy structures on the abandoned portion of Trail 311, and construct the new trail</b>		
07/20	Membership Meeting	6:30pm, Wilms Valley Grange	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
	<b>BBQ AND POTLUCK --- Wear your old clothes and bring your appetite! Come cheer Dana on as he paints three walls in the basement of the Grange. ☺ Member help with miscellaneous items will be greatly appreciated. Guests are welcome. The Chapter will be providing hamburgers. Bring a side dish or desert.</b>		
07/22	Mt Spokane Ride	10am	Judy Clark 238-2206
	<b>This is a nice trail ride through the trees. We hope to see blooming bear grass or huckleberries. Please RSVP - ASAP and call for parking directions.</b>		
07/29,30	Salmo Basin Work Party	Gypsy Meadows	Bob Gish 276-6226
	<b>Check back for updates on this work party.</b>		
08/02	Board Meeting	7pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
	<b>All members are welcome to attend.</b>		
08/17	Membership Meeting	7pm, Wilms Valley Grange	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
08/19-27	Pack Trip-Old Man Lake	Joint Trip with Okanogan	Bob Gish 276-6226
08/25-27	Clayton Community Fair	– come see the new Fairgrounds!	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
	<b>Volunteers will be needed - more information soon.</b>		
09-2/4	Labor Day Work Party-Salmo	Gypsy Meadows	Bob Gish 276-6226
09/05	Board Meeting	7pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
09/09	Salmo Basin Work Party	Gypsy Meadows	Bob Gish 276-6226
09/16	Huckleberry Mtn. Ride	10am	Cyndi 258-7401
	<b>This ride may be cancelled. If you would like to host a ride this weekend please contact Vicki Gish.</b>		
09/23	Membership Meeting	7pm, Wilms Valley Grange	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
09/24	Ed/LNT	TBD—Pack Trip??	Vicki Gish 276-6226
10/03	Board Meeting	7pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
10/07	Reiner Rancho Ride & Potluck	Reiner Rancho	Karen Reiner 276-1849
10/21	Membership Meeting	7 pm, Wilms Valley Grange	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
11/07	Board Meeting	7 pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
11/18	Membership Meeting	7 pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
12/05	Board Meeting	7 pm, Pizza Factory	Jim Hudkins 276-8876
12/??	Christmas Party	To be determined	

**All dates, times and events are subject to change.  
Be sure to telephone the contact person prior to the scheduled event.**

## Why Humans Live Longer Than Dogs - author unknown

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long." Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply, Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God...

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6/15/2006

Meeting called to order 7:00 pm

Karen motion to dismiss secretary's minutes. Debbie Nelson seconded – discussed – passed.

- Trail Boss – Vicki Gish – There was a meeting at Pizza Factory of a newly organized user group, Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC) This group will be able to negotiate with Forest Service regarding user groups issues on trails, consider roads-to-trail conversions, attempt to find solutions to recreation related disputes and challenges. Jory Morgan Clinic this weekend. June 24<sup>th</sup> Republic Poker Ride. July 1<sup>st</sup> Kettle Crest ride – may be too much snow still on ground.
- Ride the West – Jim Hudkins – Susan Rae thanked us for helping on the Trail Course and asked how we like the Judges, Cathy & Doug. If anyone has feed back concerning Ride the West please contact Jim.
- Director Bob Gish – Jeff Chapman has a proposal for a General 3 Zone Plan for Olympic National Park for a Wilderness Trails: 1) a Wilderness Trail Zone for riding & packing stock, 2) a primitive trail zone – no stock, 3) and a Primeval zone, no stock. Stock use could be restricted even in Wilderness Trail Zone. Stock users have until August 15 to write letters, send emails, faxes and make calls regarding this proposal. Some trails that are not used/or kept up will be allowed to be rehabilitated. We need to continue to monitor and be very vocal regarding trails in wilderness etc. Right to Ride is still being argued, email then follow up with a phone call or letter to Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell.
- Lu Lemeiux gave a better cost share for us. This summer after June 30, there needs to be 4 miles of trail done: 80' of puncheon, split on site, trail logged out. Trail 261 out of Shoo Tree – Stagger Inn. Forest Service will be there to help. We will get 2500.00
- Dave Jackson won the camper.
- BCHA has not taken a stand on NAIS.
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Vicki Gish made a motion for an ad in the Deer Park Fair Book and sponsor a class for 65.00. Debbie Nelson seconded. Discussion. Approved.

Motion to adjourn Jim Nelson, Seconded Debbie Nelson. Approved.

## **Report on the Jory Morgan Clinic** **By Vicki Gish**

We had the Clinic on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Cody Francis's Newport Arena. We had 10 horses and mules with 10 students. The weather was good. Bruce Foreman, Judy Clark, Debbie Nelson, Dana Ogle, Talea Morgan, Cyndi Johnson, Bob Gish, Gene Hennige, Jory, and myself were ready to work. Steve and Cathy Smith came up to observe. Cody's arena was perfect.

Jory showed us some techniques to work with our animals moving away from pressure and keeping them out of our space. He showed us about sacking out colts, hobbling, working their feet with a soft rope so the horses would get used to ropes hitting their feet and not to panic. We worked with soft ropes under tails to teach them not to clamp their tails on a lead rope and get tail burns. We rode with a flag and picked up barrels while riding. We were shown how to use a barrel for side passing around and backing up using leg pressure.

Jory did his famous head stand on the back of a horse. Then we were off to Pee Wee Creek Trailhead to set up camp for the night.

We had another great pot luck dinner and visited after dinner. We got to know Gene better and he promised we would see him at some work parties. Jory entertained us with his stories, singing and guitar playing the rest of the evening.

The next morning, we were riding the trails by 10 am. Talea lead the group after lunch and Jory was behind her...roping her horse's hind legs as we went down the trail. No one else was interested in riding in front of Jory after that. We all had a good time and a safe ride. Oh, I forgot. Ayla, Bob's mule spooked at a killer squirrel and did a 180 turn. What saved Bob's bacon was Jory had told him to keep a tighter rein on her while riding so he would have more control of her...he stayed on.

Thanks to everyone for coming and Gene we hope to see more of you.

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## **Hughes/Jackson Creek Trailhead Project – THIS WEEKEND -** **July 15 and 16**

**By Vicki Gish**

Hi all,

The Fish and Game has finally given us their blessing to take Hughes Meadows back if we relocate the trail head and move some of the trail that is too close to the water. We will have a dinky digger for that job. We have waited a long time for this day. The gate is officially unlocked Saturday morning July 15th (locked because of the G. Bears).

We will pot luck Saturday night. Hughes Meadows Trails 311 & 312 will connect the Priest River side to Gypsy Meadows. We need to clear the trails, build 3 puncheons, build sign posts, destroy structures on the abandoned portion of Trial 311 and construct the new trail. When all the work is done 311 and 312 will hook up with Shedroof Divide Trail.

Call Bob Gish 994-1075 or 276-6226 for all the information on this trail work.

Hope you can make it. This trailhead and these trails will be a wonderful addition for riding.



## NORTHEAST CHAPTER BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN - MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to help preserve the Horsemen's rights to use horses on public lands. 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 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.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED WAIVER MUST ACCOMPANY MEMBERSHIP DUES. ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD INCLUDED IN THE MEMBERSHIP MUST SIGN FORM. Parents may sign for minor children. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered as ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Membership Information (Please print clearly)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Dist. \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal/Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

If you don't want your information in the membership roster check here \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Would you like your Newsletter mailed \_\_\_\_\_ or e-mailed \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>State and Chapter Dues:</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>
<b>Optional Membership:</b>	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$260.00</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$510.00</b>

Mail to: Northeast Chapter BCHW, P.O. Box 3094, Deer Park, WA 99006-3094

Northeast Chapter BCHW  
 Newsletter Editor  
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Next General Meeting is July 20, 2006, 6:30 p.m.  
 Potluck and painting the Grange!!!!  
 Williams Valley Grange  
 Hope to see you all there.  
 This is a THURSDAY!!