

NICKER NEWS

February 2022

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Letter from Our President

Tony Karniss

As many of you know we had a bad start for our new year with some snow and hard heavy rains then the flooding. We had to cancel our first meeting of the year, but we had a good turn out on our Zoom meeting.

Now that the weather has gotten a little better there are a few things starting to happen. The Chapter Calendar is done, and work parties are pretty much in place for the season.

The Chapter February meeting went well with guest speakers from the US/FS thanking us for all the hard work and time we have put on the trails, along with some updates on what they would like us to help on. We have been asked to help build a couple of bridges for them. They have also acquired a new road grader, maybe we will have some smoother roads to travel on.

Different activities are coming along well for the chapter as well.

Fun Ride planning is going great. There will be a LNT Class in April held at Randle WA. Along with work on the Burnt Ridge Trail.

Our Chapter Ride in January on the Rails to Trails in PeEll had a good turn out. Even included meeting some new folks that may become members of the chapter.

I would especially like to thank all of you for your support and hard work, and hope to see you out on the trails.

BCHW Events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAR 3 – Chapter Meeting 7PM
Onalaska Fire Hall

Chapter meetings: APR 7, MAY 5, JUN 2, JUL 7, AUG 4, SEP 1, OCT 6, NOV 3

MAR 4-6 - WA Horse Expo, Ridgefield

MAR 18-20 - BCHW Rendevous

MAR 26 - Burnt Ridge Work Party (WP)
POC Slim Mardock

APR 2-3 - Leave No Trace class, Randle

APR 9 - Burnt Ridge Work Party

MAY 14-15 - Packwood Lake WP
POC Tony Karniss

MAY 21 - Chapter Sponsored Fun Ride,
Burnt Ridge

MAY 27-30 - Mem Day Chapter
Campout

JUN 4-5 - Natl Trails Day Work at
Packwood Lake

JUN 22-26 - Kalama Work Party

JUL 8-10 - Green River Work Party

JUL 15-17 - Cody Work Party

JUL 21-25 - Nannie Ridge Work Party

AUG 6-7 - Klickitat Trail Logout WP

AUG 10-14 - Regional WP Soda Sprgs

FULL CALENDAR ONLINE:

Facebook BCHWLewisCounty

Facebook public.bchw

Website <http://lcbch.org/>

Have a story or event to share?

Email sherrybrown89@msn.com.



January 2022 Burnt Ridge Work Party - by Tony Karniss

The Chapter held its first work party up on Burnt Ridge down in the Swamp. The turnout was great. We had a good time and got a lot done. We built a new 48-foot Puncheon and filled it with 6 1/2 yards of rock to get us up out of the mud. We loaded rock onto Don's RTV with the Excavator and Don trucked it into the Puncheon spot had a crew there to help spread out the rock, a small crew went onto the Southwest end of the trail lopping and throwing limbs out of the trail to the Road Crossing. Thank you, Don, and Marsha O'Neil for the great sandwiches and muffins for lunch.

Members also went and pulled all the Mile marker signs and Trail markers so they can be cleaned up and repainted and numbered. Members have been working on cutting out the trails and doing water bar work to help drain the trail which is helping greatly.

Sherry Brown has stepped up to help Marsha on making a good map of the Burnt Ridge trails, it is looking great. The map will be posted on the new Trail Head Kiosk along with a map at the trail intersections and roads. It is also available on line at our web site. We've also been working on a new water trough for Bill, and old wooden one and preparing for 2 more water holes on the trail.

The new mile marker signs will be installed here soon along with the new painted trail signs, there are a few good views on the North side now and a great view of Mount St Helens on the South side. We are going to build a trail to that site.





Mike Reedy
1952-2021

by Deb Wesselius

Mike Reedy was the big guy that sat at the back of the room with his wife, Renda, during chapter meetings. Very seldom did he inject a comment during the chapter's business discussions and only socialized sparsely, even at chapter events. He did attend some of the chapter's trail rides but preferred to camp and ride with his wife. For fifty-three years he was involved as a salesman, owner, and manager for independent to large corporate chain stores and became a sales manager of pet supply distribution companies. His quiet demeanor and commitment to his profession belied his involvement in public service. His volunteerism in the equestrian community spans thirty years of contribution; especially in our national organization – BCH of America.

Mike's ascent to the highest position in our organization was a gradual but steady three decade contribution with volunteer participation. He started out in a small local saddle club and volunteered at the USFS Deschutes Ranger District to help keep trails open. Before becoming involved in our organization he founded and became President of West Valley Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trails and became the parent organization's Vice-President.

Workparty Continued...

The trail down in the swamp will be up out of the mud with a new 875 foot reroute so by the Fun Ride we should have a nice trail for everyone to enjoy that will be just short of 11 miles.

We have one more bridge to replace, to start building on the Kiosk and moving the Porta Potty over to the trailhead.

So here soon we will be having some work parties for brushing and weed whacking which is a lot less than what we used to do.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and time on burnt ridge.

Thank You! ~ Tony Karniss ~



Mike Reedy (contd)

In 1998, Mike founded and became State Director for the West Cascade Chapter of BCH of Oregon. He was a member of the Citizens Advisory Council for Oregon State Forests and worked with Region 6 of the USFS to keep equestrian trails open. For six years he was a member of the Oregon Recreational Trail Advisory Committee and the Recreational Trails Grant Program Committee appointed by Oregon State Parks and the Oregon Governor. In addition to working to keep equestrian trails open he became a Leave No Trace Master Trainer and the Education Chairman of BCHO to help spread the message of our commitment to clean campgrounds, trailheads and trails.

In 2004 the Reedy family moved to Washington State and Mike was elected BCHA National Director for BCH of Washington. During his six year involvement with BCHA he was National Treasurer, National Vice Chairman, National Chairman, National Past Chair and Expansion Chair. He considered his best achievement on the national level the solution to stop the USFS plan to reassign trails that could be used for equestrians.

Next time you are out on a trail ride, especially on public lands, tip your hat to the big guy that got a lot done for the equestrian community.





Trials and tribulations as a novice packer

By: Ann Lindh

I had always been impressed by the pack strings I'd meet while trail riding and told myself someday I want to learn to do that. In 2019 I decided someday had arrived.

I am not a novice trail rider. I've been camping and riding the high country with friends and family for years. A 16 mile day trip was our average, even with our children in tow. But I learned riding and riding while leading a pack horse are two different mindsets. I also found it hard to just jump in and do it. It's possible to watch, read, and

plan until you convince yourself it's too complicated. I was overwhelmed with information about packs, knots, hitches, the right way/the wrong way, etc. I literally got into my own head worrying about what the experienced and more knowledgeable packers would think of my inexperience or my stock.

My friend Sherry Brown and I joined Lewis BCH together. She shared what gear she already had, and not knowing exactly what we'd need, we continued collecting and buying gear whenever we'd come across an ad or yard sale and started desensitizing horses. All I had to use were mine and my daughter's horses, so her mare Phoebe was drafted into pack horse boot camp. Phoebe is not the traditional style pack horse, being a 15.2 hh leggy Arab and not really built for packing. But she is gentle, honest, and does whatever is asked of her.

In June 2019, Slim Mardock invited us to join his work party out of Soda Springs (William O. Douglas). Sherry and I along with our two youngest children camped at Soda Springs and helped Slim clear the Carlton Creek trail. We didn't pack but watched and took notes as Slim loaded two garbage cans filled with loppers and saws on his mule.

July 2019 was the big work party out of the Green River Horse Camp (near Mt. St Helens area) involving several user groups and my first official pack experience. Several Lewis BCH members assisted Sherry and I with loading our pack horses. Literally all we had to do was hold our horses while they loaded the already packed and weighed panniers for us. We were again taken under Slim's wing and the three of us with pack stock in tow headed down the



PACKING (cont.)

Green River trail. The second day Sherry and I flew solo packing additional tools and food to crews working on the Goat Mountain trail. Day three found us once again going down the Green River trail, still flying solo, this time to bring back all the supplies. All the packers were spread few and far between, so Sherry and I ended up making two round trips to bring everything out, making it a 25+ mile day. We were tired but proud of our accomplishment.

I thought that would probably be the end of the packing season, but in August Doc and Deb Wesselius invited Sherry and I to help them and Tom Conner pack supplies for a trail crew working on Hidden Springs trail (south out of White Pass on the Pacific Crest trail). I've ridden to Shoe Lake many times but never beyond it. All was well until we hit the steep talus slope. Half of the trail is cleared of the large, unstable stacks of shifting rock and half is not. As my gelding started across the slope of narrow rock covered trail a hoof slipped between rocks and became wedged. The longer he stood trying to move his foot, the more concerned he became and I realized he was about to panic. I decided to get off to try and free my gelding's hoof and that's the time he decided to panic and did a 180 in the very narrow, very steep talus. I managed to toss Phoebe's lead so he didn't wrap himself up in it and he freed his hoof in the process. Now I'm in a pickle and not sure what to do with my pack horse while I tried to get knucklehead calmed down and turned back around without knocking us both off the trail. But Phoebe was a rock star and stood like a stone while I turned Joker back around and led him the final few feet to the cleared section of trail. She then picked her way across, trailing her lead until I was able to collect it and remount. The rest of the trip went off without a hitch, including the return. I've heard it's not a question of if you'll have a wreck while leading pack stock, but when. That wasn't a total wreck, but it could have gotten ugly very quickly. It hasn't dampened my interest in packing and I look forward to continuing to develop my knowledge and experience with Lewis BCH.



DON'T FORGET TO GO TO [BCHW.ORG](http://bchw.org) TO SEE THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF

TRAILHEAD NEWS

The May-June and Sept-Oct issues will still be printed and mailed out to all memberships.

But otherwise please go to bchw.org, Trailhead News, to view your publications. And if you have something to share with BCHW, send all articles and/or event announcements to: bchw@wamedia.com.

While you're there, check out all the education programs available on-line.