

# CAPITOL RIDERS



## Hoofbeats - August 2012

Next meeting August 7th 7 pm  
Karen (Coffee), Sue Koch (Treats)

From President Laura -

Summer is here. The sun is out! I hope all of you are getting a chance to ride. Shimmer, Luke and I have been enjoying the trails. This year the grass has been extra-rich so please keep an eye on your horses and if they look or act stressed or if their feet are hot, keep them off grass, especially during the hottest parts of the day when sugar-content is highest.

When you are trailering to your destination, please be aware of the new trailering laws. Here is an excerpt, edited for brevity, from a Washington State Patrol news release:

...Washington State Patrol wants to remind drivers who are towing a trailer on the highway that they need stay out of the left lane and obey posted speed limits. Washington State's Keep Right Law requires all vehicles stay to the right except to pass, and the left lane is used primarily as a passing lane when there are two or more lanes moving in the same direction. All vehicles towing trailers or vehicles over 10,000 pounds are prohibited from using the left lane when there are three or more lanes moving in the same direction.

Allowing faster moving traffic to pass is always the best choice.

The law for left lane travel (RCW 46.61.100 – Keep right except for passing) states it is a traffic infraction to drive continuously in the left lane of a multi-lane roadway when it impedes the flow of other traffic. The left lane does not including high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. The fine for failure to keep right except for passing is \$124.

When there are three or more lanes moving in the same direction, additional restrictions are placed upon all vehicles towing trailers or vehicles over 10,000 pounds. These vehicles are prohibited from using the left lane except to prepare for a left turn at an intersection or exit ramp. These restrictions do not

apply to a vehicle using an HOV lane. The HOV lane is not considered the left-hand lane of a roadway. The fine for illegal use of the left lane is \$124.



On certain stretches of interstate freeways and state highways, speed limits are posted for passenger cars and trucks. The word “trucks” on signs giving notice to maximum speed limits means vehicles over 10,000 pounds and all vehicles in combination. This restriction applies to all vehicles towing a trailer regardless of the size of vehicle or trailer (RCW 46.61.410). Fines for speed-are based on miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

For more information, see the Washington State Patrol's YouTube video series “Good to Know – Keep Right”.

Have fun and stay safe! See you at our next meeting on August 7th.

Happy Trails,  
Laura

Remember to bring your fecal samples for pickup at the meeting, Approx. \$10 per sample. Call Connie Bailey to RSVP. 360-273-5552

We are looking for someone willing to lead the majority of our rides. Carrie Russell has become burned out and would like to take a break. Knowledge of the area is a plus. Otherwise it means you know who all is going and coordinate any carvaans.

## **Events - partial for 2012**

### **August**

**7 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm**

**10-13 - chapter Les Hilde camp out - Sedro Wooley SR 20, Discover Pass required**

**18 - chapter Panhandle Lake day ride - Shelton**

18-19 - Competitive Mounted Orienteering, Margaret McKenny Capitol Forest

18-19 - Natural Horemanship Games and Rendezvous, Fall City 425-222-7911

**24-27 - chapter Green River Horse Camp - Randle camp out**

### **September**

National Preparedness Month, Vivian Eason 360-786-5243

**4 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm**

**9 - Buck Creek Prize Ride - Greenwater, overnight at Echo Ranch**

22 - BCHW Director's meeting, Ellensburg

24 - National Public Lands Day

27 - DNR User meeting 6 pm, 801 88th Ave Tumwater

### **October**

**2 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm**

26 - National Mule Day

### **November**

**6 - General Meeting Littlerock fire hall 7 pm**

15 - DNR User meeting 6 pm, 801 88th Ave Tumwater

30 - Capitol Forest closes to Horses

### **December**

**TBD - Chapter Christmas Party**

7 - BCHW Land Manager meeting, Ellensburg

8 - BCHW Director's meeting, Ellensburg

13 - National Day of the Horse

## **Blister beetles - toxic to horses**

Blister beetles, a highly poisonous insect for horses, are becoming a problem in southwestern Idaho alfalfa and even in eastern Washington alfalfa hay.

Blister beetles are highly toxic to horses: the cantharidin in the bodies of living or dead blister beetles can be toxic, and in some cases lethal, to horses, sheep, and cattle. Horses seem to be particularly sensitive to them. Most commonly horses are poisoned by eating crushed beetles in hay. On the following page is a photo of a blister beetle.

Blister beetles are associated with grasshoppers: the larva stage of the blister beetle feeds on grasshopper eggs. Unfortunately, grasshopper numbers have been trending on the rise in recent years, so looking at grasshopper control methods might be an option. Sage-grouse do eat grasshoppers, as do many other birds, reptiles and mammals. A biological control protozoan, *Nosema locustae*, has been primarily used by homeowners for small grasshopper infestations.

There are also chemical controls for grasshoppers, such as carbaryl and malathion. Perhaps these products might also work on blister beetles but a disadvantage of using these pesticides is that they also destroy beneficial insects. If you choose this control method it is suggested that you contact your local Extension office or other knowledgeable resource to find out their advise on chemical handling and application methods.

If you think your horse may have ingested a blister beetle contact your veterinarian immediately. If you discover blister beetles in your alfalfa, or have a question on identifying blister beetles, contact your nearest Extension Office.



Being able to identify blister beetles is a requirement for all horse owners who feed alfalfa hay.

There are more than 2,500 species of blister beetles worldwide.

Blister beetles are most common in southern and western US states, but when conditions are right they can appear in the east.

The blister beetle larvae (baby) feed on grasshopper eggs, so if an outbreak of grasshoppers occurs, blister beetles may also be present. Alfalfa attracts grasshoppers; grasshoppers attract blister beetles. Some varieties of adult blister beetles feed on alfalfa pollen and the flowers, and it's the adult beetle that can poison horses.

It's not the bite of a blister beetle that is the problem - it's the chemical they secrete when startled or killed. Females also coat their eggs with it for protection. The chemical is called cantharidin. It is a blistering agent.

When a small amount of the chemical gets on the skin it causes blisters. The blisters are uncomfortable, but not exceedingly painful. The blisters will heal and simple first aid is usually all that is necessary.

Horses have problems with cantharidin when they eat dead beetles present in alfalfa. The caustic chemical blisters the digestive tract and creates lesions on other internal organs. It is very painful and can be a slow agonizing death.

Each species of blister beetle can have different concentrations of cantharidin. The male contains higher amounts of the chemical.

Research at Texas A & M showed a half of a milligram of cantharidin per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of body weight can kill a horse. Using this formula proves that it would only take three beetles of some of the more toxic species to kill a horse.

Because blister beetles tend to swarm if one beetle is in the alfalfa hay, there will be more.

Symptoms of blister beetle poisoning are colic, frequent urination, ulcers, dehydration, sores in the mouth and abnormal vital sign readings. These are symptoms of many other equine illnesses, so if a horse is eating alfalfa hay the presence of blister beetles must be considered- especially if other horses are showing the same symptoms. Examining the mouth for blisters and sores may help determine the cause of the symptoms.

If you buy alfalfa hay that is imported from other states you must be able to identify the insect by anatomy.

Do not rely on color or markings. Stripes, solid black, brown, gray, spots, bright green or turquoise coloration are examples of possible colors and markings.

The length of the beetle can be a half inch to 1 ½ inches. The head is fully exposed. The neck is very narrow. The pronotum (the first segment of the body where the first pair of legs attach) is narrow at the neck and wider where it intersects with the main part of the beetle (the abdomen). The wings can cover the entire main section of the body (the abdomen) or be short, depending on the species. Blister beetles have six legs (three pairs). The antennae are about one third of the body's length.

The sooner blister beetle poisoning is recognized the better the prognosis for the horse. The veterinarian may administer mineral oil to help protect and comfort the damaged lining of the digestive tract. The mineral oil may also help move the beetles through the digestive system quicker. Fluids will be given to off-set dehydration and shock. Pain killers will also have to be used. Charcoal may also be administered to try to absorb the toxin.

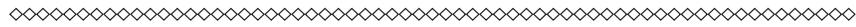
If the horse survives, long term kidney and other organ damage may permanently impair the horse.

In addition to being able to identify blister beetles, the horse owner who feeds alfalfa can take precautions:

1. Try to buy first cutting as the adult blister beetle usually does not appear until summer. Buy it before blossoms have formed, as this is what some blister beetles species feed upon.
2. Avoid hay that has been crimped. Crimping kills the beetles. If the hay producer does not use a crimper, the live beetles may abandon the field during harvest.
3. Purchase alfalfa hay from a producer who is aware of blister beetles and tries to prevent them. Using chemicals to kill grasshoppers, controlling weeds and timing harvests can deter blister beetle infestations.

While all of these steps can decrease the risk of blister beetles in your alfalfa hay, inspection of each bale and flake before feeding is a must.

Observation and awareness is the key.



## CAMPING AT MOUNT ADAMS

As we approached the campground I had a sense of anticipation. Would there be enough space for the four families in our group on a busy 4th of July weekend??? Many times when you go camping on a legal holiday, it can be crazy!!! I had the Crowson's and the Anderson's behind me as I pulled into the camp. When we entered, to my amazement, the camp was EMPTY!. I have never seen the campground at Mount Adams without some campers there. We were all kind of shocked. But, we chose our locations that suited us and began to set up camp. It took very little time to have everyone in their place and horses being fed.

Once we all got settled, water for the horses was our first priority. So we all trekked down to the solar panel activated trough and found it almost empty with no signs of fresh water for quite some time. We then all felt as if the camp had been empty for quite awhile. Was there something we didn't know?? It was kind of unsettling. However, we all had some water that would keep our horses hydrated. The weather was sunny but somewhat cool, so we built a fire to stay warm. We decided to go for a short ride to the BIG TREE with the Andersons. It was great to be back to this wonderful camp ground with its miles and miles of beautiful trails.

The next day (4th of July) was a beautiful day with warm temps and a spectacular view of Mount Adams very visible from the camp. It's nice to see the colors change around the mountain at different times of the day. You have to see it to believe it as this mountain sits in the campground like a large ice cream cone. After our ten mile ride with a very tired dog, we returned to see that Diana and George Gunderson had arrived.

Now we had our group assembled for much fun. That night after dinner, Tom Crowson announced that we would be celebrating 4th of July together. So, he brought over to our camp spot, red, white and blue candles that we lit and a copy of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Leave it to Tom to keep us politically informed. We all took turns reading the Declaration and we learned from each other what certain parts meant and how we can see things happening in our society today. We all had a great evening together sitting around the campfire that night, eating ice cream and brownies.

The following morning we woke to beautiful clear skies with a promise of a warm day. This morning we decided to have a potluck pancake breakfast at the Anderson's camp site. Wow—did we have a lot of food. It was great and was a good send off for our rides that each group chose to do. We traveled 15 miles that day and Crowson's with Diana did a similar ride.

However, when we returned to the camp, we were more aware of the fact that we might need more water with such warm temps. So, as I saw the ranger approach the camp that afternoon, I approached him and asked what was going on with the water at the trough. He said that the pump was broken and that they couldn't afford to fix it at this time. I asked what he planned to do about it, and he said that sometime during the weekend he would be bringing water to the trough. I told him that we needed it NOW, not just sometime!

I also reminded him that we were sure that other campers would be arriving soon and would also be counting on the water supply. I strongly suggested that we have water that day, or we would have to call the ranger station. The water arrived about an hour later, but only lasted one day. When we didn't have any the next day, Tom decided he had enough of this misuse of our funds and called the ranger station. They were there in an hour and by that time 5 other rigs had pulled in expecting water also. So---the "squeaky wheel" does get the results.

All in all, our time was special with good friends. If you haven't had the chance to go camping with Capitol Riders this year---do yourself a favor and COME JOIN US!

Carrie Russell/Trail Boss

Some photos of the Mount Adams trip -





July 27th to 29th is an overnigher changed to Wildcat above Rimrock Lake off SR 12. "Wildcat" for Wildcat Creek which goes into the William O Douglas Wilderness. It's on USFS lands. (FYI - The William O Douglas trail from Yakima to Ohanapecosh is now officialy open.) Dry camping so bring your own water.

August 10th to 13th is a trip to the Les Hilde trailhead off of SR 20. Said to have about 100 miles of trail available. Bring your Discover pass.

August 18th is a day trip to Panhandle Lake west of Shelton. It's a 4-H camp with trails around the perimeter.

August 24th to the 27th is another overnigher to Green River Horse Camp out of Randle on USFS lands. Be sure and check out the "Boundary Trail".

To finish off the scheduled rides is Buck Creek in the Greenwater area of SR 410 on September 9th. Overnight at Echo Ranch if you wish or hang out at the airstrip (camp sites are available.)

Other events/Clinics -

Superior Soundness of the Equine Hoof, August 11-12, 8 am, free snacks, lunch fundraiser, \$130 donation. 12211 123rd Ave, Rainier, WA. Please register prior to July 10. Send check to: Rainier Equine Hoof Recovery Center, PO Box 1272, Rainier WA 98576. Made payable to: REHRC.

### **Cowboy Wisdom**

Author Unknown

Don't name a pig you plan to eat.

Country fences need to be horse high, pig tight, and bull strong.

Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plough around the stump.

A bumble bee is faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.

Meanness don't happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Don't sell your mule to buy a plough.

Don't corner something meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You can't unsay a cruel thing.

Every path has some puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

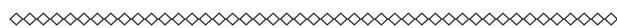
Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.

Don't squat with your spurs on.

Don't judge people by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.  
Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.  
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.  
It's better to be a has-been than a never-was.  
The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.  
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.  
If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't.  
It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.  
Sometimes you get and sometimes you get got.  
The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning.  
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.  
Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew; your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think.  
Only cows know why they stampede.  
Always drink upstream from the herd.  
If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya.  
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.  
Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.  
You can't tell how good a man or a watermelon is 'till they get thumped.  
Never miss a good chance to shut up.



### **Lightning Storms**

If riding your horse and a storm comes up, get off any high ground as quickly as possible. Do not stay in the saddle for any longer than necessary.

Do not seek cover under trees of any size as they attract lightning. If you have to hunker down tie the horse to brush.

Avoid swales and dips, depressions or holes in the ground if you are waiting out the storm. Lightning can jump across and through you. Find as flat a spot as possible. (Flat does not refer to any slope the ground might have).

Remember that with thunder storms comes rain and with rain comes flooding. If you are out on a trail be watchful for trail washouts and flash flooding.

If in your pasture during a storm, stay as far away from fences (especially wire) as you can. If there is a barn, shed or other structure nearby, seek it out as safely and as quickly as you can. If you can it's a good idea to turn off your electric fence system for the duration of the storm.

It's a good idea to get the stock under cover if possible as well. They should not huddle under trees.

Stay safe out there so you can ride another day.

**You may have noticed I skipped the July newsletter. Well, it's been bothering me that the newsletter has been going out during the month on the header. So I've moved it up a month so now it will come out before the month as shown.**

NO-ON MEMBERSHIP-APPL-ON

# Come Join Us!

To join or renew your membership with BCHW, complete this application:

- Please PRINT LEGIBLY.
- Sign the LIABILITY RELEASE (all members over 18).
- Make checks out to CAPITOL RIDERS.
- Give or mail the application to Chapter Treasurer:  
Traci Koch  
61 SE Craddick Road, Shelton WA 98584-9236



## Member Info

New Member       Renewal – Membership number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Children's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Legislative district (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

### STATE MEMBERSHIP

#### Basic Membership

- Single \$36.00
- Family \$49.00

#### Optional Membership (includes family or single from above)

- Contributing \$65.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Patron \$250.00
- Benefactor \$500.00
- Lifetime (Single) \$1200.00

State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)

Additional State Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal A \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Name (or Independent): \_\_\_\_\_

**Capitol Riders**

Chapter Dues - Single \$10.00

- Family \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Chapter Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal B \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total (A+B) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children.

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 Back Country Horsemen of Washington, including Chapters, officers, directors, or members, cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience levels of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other BCHW events, I do hereby release and hold harmless the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children, or horses.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

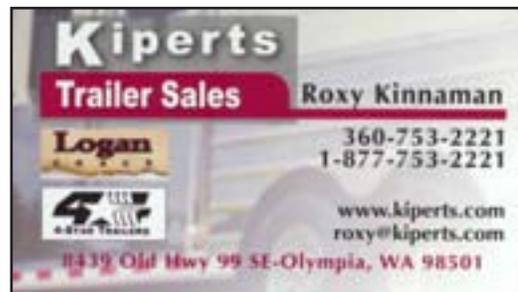
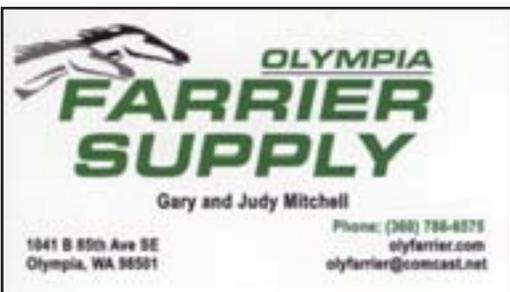
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Back Country Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

# Sponsors



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 1/2 page - \$72  
 full page - \$100 (subject to board approval)  
 Business card or your production ready artwork.

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This space for rent!

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Chris Enrico  
4809 24th Ave SE  
Lacey WA 98503

Capitol Riders  
<http://capitolriders.org>

