

CAPITOL RIDERS



Hoofbeats - March 2010

Jayne Bade - Treats

Meeting Minutes

3/2/2010

Little Rock Fire hall

Capitol Riders Chapter, BCHW



Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Steve Russell, President.

Steve Russell first mentioned agenda corrections to the agenda handed out. Work parties is Jeff LaBreck and gravel haul is Jeff.

Grace and Chuck Corbit were introduced as guests.



February meeting minutes were read by Chris Enrico, chapter secretary. Dean Hartman mentioned the Little Rock garage sale is May 2nd. Motion was made to approve with Traci's (treasurer) correction, seconded and passed.

Treasurer report - Traci Koch not present.



Newsletter/Web - Chris Enrico asked for articles and photos.

Rides - Steve said he brought lists of rides for review. He asked if there were questions.

Carrie Russell said that the March 13th ride, Fort Lewis Area 23 has a huge parking lot. You need a permit and ride out is 10 am. Tom Crowson will find out if the area is open. Connie Bailey said that everyone calls in to Fort Lewis individually. The area is just past Spurgeon Creek Road on the right. Directions to be posted on the chapter web site. Nisqually and or Scattercreek chapters have them posted on their web site. It is the same day as the Mossyrock ride.

Burn't Ridge ride is May 8th. Parking could be a problem as it can be muddy. Judy Francis said it's better earlier in the day.



Kennedy Creek on May 22nd. Traci Koch has it scheduled. Parking is at or near the Little Creek Casino, south of Shelton on US 101.

May 26-29 is Joe Watt Canyon, Thorpe. It tends to be windy and dusty. It is an overnigher. Permits required? (ed - Parking permit required). DNR - USFS? (ed - WSDFW) Tree savers recommended and plan on a line between vehicles. Connie will send out a slide show. The Yakima group usually brings porta-potties.

June 12, Peterman Trail, Mossyrock. It is a 2 1/2 hour ride and a 1 1/2 hour drive.

July 17, Westport Beach ride. It is a 2 1/2 hour drive. Tom and Tootie Crowson to provide directions.



Steve mentioned the need for snacks on the rides.

August 14, Mima Trailhead day ride? Jeff LaBreck said logging may impact, should find out days in advance.

September 4-6, Mount Adams campout. 3 1/2 hour drive. There are built-in hi-lines and weed free hay is required. Steve said this should be verified before each ride. Jeff said you are liable for a ticket if you don't have it.

March 13th ride (Ft Lewis), 9:30 am. Carrie Russell will place out paper plates. The question of Trail Boss was brought up. Good to have a trail boss that knows the area. The question "What is a trail boss" was asked. They know the times, place and other information regarding the ride, and the area. They are the contact for the ride. Do we have one or more trail bosses for each ride? Should have someone familiar with the ride and area. Dean Hartman offered to be trail boss for the March 13th ride - Fort Lewis. There is a sign up getting passed around.

Steve asked if we should snack before or after the ride, consensus was after. Bring a chair. Bring rain gear. Chris will post a notice of cancellation on the Event page of the web site (ed - done!) There will also be a phone tree.

Dean Hartman - Work parties. Dean turned it over to Jeff.

Jeff mentioned a non-motorized meeting last week. He said that Green Line 6 will be rerouted, 100 feet of trail is under water. You can park within 30 feet of the site. This is the project for National Trail Day, June 5th. Jeff then mentioned the Gravel Haul on March 6th. Show up at 9 am for a safety meeting. The DNR has 15 passenger vans for a shuttle. It is a 1/2 mile walk or ride. There will be multiple work sites with approximately 5 chapters plus others. Capitol Riders is supplying paper plates, bowls, cups and utensils. Jeff paid for this (\$68.83). There will be a food trailer at the end of 9500. Steve asked for a motion to reimburse Jeff, made, seconded and passed.

Ways and Means - Dean Hartman said the garage sale is May 2nd and will be at Joyce Nelson's. There will be a 15 percent consignment. Judy Francis stated that Littlerock's advertising is \$25 and Judy will provide it. Joyce made a motion to reimburse Judy if legal with 501(3)c restrictions. Seconded and passed.

Social - waiting for club ride schedule.

Membership - Sandra White said she had a sample of business cards (Dean offered to get printed). Chris mentioned that he had previously offered to provide cards for the good of the chapter and had done so. 250 cards were circulated, members taking some to hand out as needed. Sandra brought up the membership packet she has been working on. It will have a list of rides, a copy of Hoofprints, a contact phone number and a new rider checklist.

Correspondence - Chris/Connie Bailey. Chris said there is nothing to report.

Director Report -

Jeff said he sends out his own correspondence. Jeff purchased a trail saw for the BCHW auction, March 19-21 general meeting.

There are trail closures on Capitol Forest numbers 6, 8 and 10 due to logging.

Judy asked if the Bill # 2480 is still alive. Jeff said that volunteer hours might count toward user passes similar to USFS forest passes.

Connie Bailey asked about Hoofprints. Send the money to whom? Jeff said he is in charge but wants to talk to Dan at Tack Room Too and make sure he is on board. There is a question of 501(3)c bookkeeping. Those participating receive Tack Room Too gift certificates.

Jayne Bade to provide treats for the April meeting, April 6th, 7 pm, Littlerock firehall. (Joyce will provide the coffee.)

Judy Francis mentioned that Lewis County chapter had concessionaire changes. The Cowlitz Valley Ranger District is planning to contract with concessionaires to manage the Walupt Lake and Keenes Horse Camps this year. There will be a fee charged to use these camps. The Lewis County Chapter of BCH currently maintains these camps. There are also some changes that affect trail projects and LCCBCH is working with the District to amend their MOU to recognize the changes. The LCCBCH maintains miles of trails in the Gifford Pinchot, Cowlitz Valley District.

Steve asked for a motion to close. Made, seconded and passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Enrico
Secretary, Capitol Riders

WORKSHOP: Horses, Dewormers, Dogs & Manure:

Sunday, April 18, 1 to 3pm
Maple Valley

What happens when a dog ingests manure from a recently dewormed horse? It depends, but if the dewormer was ivermectin and you have a herding dog sensitive to that product, you might find yourself in a condition red-alert making a speedy trip to the emergency clinic! Attend this outdoor event at the Maple Valley farm of Alayne Blickle to learn the latest on deworming horses, concerns/updates for dog owners on potential sensitivities to horse dewormers and how to properly handle manure after your horse has been dewormed.

Equine veterinarian Dr. Steve Latimer will discuss the latest info on equine deworming protocols. Small animal veterinarian Dr. Melanie Caviness will speak on the canine aspect of the issue -- what happens when dogs are exposed to horse dewormers? What are the symptoms and what can be done? Alayne Blickle will cover composting and information on manure management. We will provide instruction and testing kits to so you can test your dog to see if they carry the mutant gene that makes them particularly sensitive to ivermectin (and other drugs.) Test kits supplied and sample collection demonstrated. Mail-in test fee to WSU is \$70/test. Workshop is FREE! Register, receive directions or for questions: 425-432-6116 or alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com

Alayne Renee Blickle
Program Director
Horses for Clean Water
www.horsesforcleanwater.com
alayne@horsesforcleanwater.com
425-432-6116

2010 Gravel Haul in Capitol Forest photos, video and story

Wordpress - DNR - <http://washingtondnr.wordpress.com/2010/03/11/volunteers-make-a-strong-showing-at-dnrs-capitol-state-forest-event-last-saturday-march-6/>

DNR Flickr site - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wastatednr/sets/72157623476018943/>

BCHW - http://www.pbaweb.com/bchw/3_10_gravel_haul

Jim Thode video - <http://vimeo.com/10025059>

Olympian - <http://www.theolympian.com/2010/03/07/1163378/volunteers-make-trails-happy.html>

On the Oregon Trail

Author Evelyn Good takes a trip with the Pendleton Wagon Train to give us a behind-the-scenes look at this annual trek along a historic route.

By Evelyn Good

Each June, Leonard Lutje hitches Daisy and Bambi to his covered wagon and joins the Pendleton, Oregon, Wagon Train. For his Belgian mares, it's just another day on the job between hay mowing and plowing. For the Oregon farmer, it's a chance to commemorate with his fellow teamsters and their draft animals, without whom the Oregon Trail would have been a footpath.

Since 1983, a committee of 10 volunteers from Pendleton has conducted the five-day wagon train through the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon for 130 of their closest friends. On this trip, a dozen teamsters and their wagons and nearly 100 horseback riders were invited to join the wagon train. Most are from Oregon and the neighboring states of Washington and Idaho. They come year after year for the one week during which real drivers hold reins instead of steering wheels.

Planning the Route

The annual wagon-train trip would not materialize if it weren't for the year-long efforts of the hard-working committee. Members Gerald Swaggert and Scott Sager have the important task of choosing the route. Their work begins with truck rides along the U.S. Forest Service roads of the Umatilla National Forest as soon as spring weather is good enough. Swaggert, 86, no longer drives a team, but he plans the route with the eye of a teamster and heart of a horseman. Through cedar and pine forests, across grassy meadows and up and down canyon roads, the two men choose the right combination of good road surfaces, accessible water and negotiable hillsides.

Each wagon is required to have a good brake, called a rough lock, to assist the horses downhill. "Pulling back cuts the circulation on the horses' rumps," Swaggert explains. "I don't want the horse to work too hard." Hard-packed dirt roads make the easiest going, but a distance along rocky tracks is often unavoidable. The Forest Service approves the route that they have in mind.

Like a game of connect-the-dots, campsites connect the daily routes. Often the most strategic aspect of planning the wagon train's itinerary is selecting campsites large enough to accommodate people, livestock and equipment.

"Because of environmental concerns, it is increasingly difficult to find a place to stay overnight," Swaggert points out. Tight quarters make maneuvering difficult and test the skills of both teamsters and horses. The ideal site is one with broad meadows that will allow the wagons to pull into a circle upon arrival. Once unhitched, horses are often tied to their wagons. A few teamsters travel with portable fencing and corral their horses within battery-powered electrical tape. The docile-natured draft horses, tired and relieved of their harnesses, accept the low boundary of tape without argument. Saddle horses are usually tied on picket lines while in camp.

The nonprofit wagon train is sponsored by the Pendleton Round-Up Association and Happy Canyon Board of Directors. Priority is given to wagons and to previous participants. Those lucky enough to be invited are charged a modest \$200 fee to cover all expenses, including meals and hay. Not even committee members, like Paul Green, are exempt from paying. He is responsible for buying 9 tons of grass hay to feed the livestock. It costs \$100 per ton, including delivery to the camps, which represents about one-third of the wagon train's total expenses. Green must also be sure that the hay that is trucked into the area is free of environmentally damaging weeds. "We buy the hay from one source because it must be inspected by the Forest Service rangers," Green says.

Appetites of the human variety are as well satisfied as the equines'. Each day begins with a lavish buffet breakfast and ends with an equally satisfying dinner. Rising and setting suns can mean cool mountain air, so campfires make dining on morning cinnamon rolls or evening steaks particularly appealing. Picnic box lunches are delivered by truck at midday to a prearranged stopping point along the route. Meals for the wagon train are catered from two large cargo trailers, which have been designed as walk-in kitchens and have a gas-fired grill the size of a box stall. Between meals, everyone can stuff their saddlebags and wagon boxes with candy bars and apples. During the five-day trek, a ton of ice — about the weight of a mature draft horse — chills 130 cases of assorted beverages. The greatest luxury is a shower truck, a 1,500-gallon trailer with shower stalls and hot water, which is available for a negligible fee to trail-grimy participants. The wagon train also uses portable toilet facilities, which are hygienic and leave no impact on the environment.

Mountain streams for watering the horses are frequent, and Swaggert and Sager take advantage of bold creeks when mapping the route. Sites with a water source for livestock are preferred over dry camps, but the committee provides a 3,000-gallon water truck as part of its support, regardless. The water truck is driven to each camp, historically a different one each night. "It is nearly impossible to stay more than one night and not duplicate the route," says Swaggert. On this particular trip, the site at Divide Well allowed the wagon train to camp for three nights and follow different loops during the day.

The relative permanence of camp at Divide Well allowed the support personnel to transport their equipment and set up facilities less frequently. Riders leave their tents or campers, rather than pack each morning and unpack each evening. The breaking of camp includes picking up trash and scattering piles of hay and manure. "It amounts to good housekeeping," Swaggert says. "We're tickled to do it. We like the forest, too."

Enough teamsters carry their own farrier tools that a thrown shoe can be quickly replaced. Minor veterinary concerns can be handled by the experienced horsemen and women on the wagon train. The nearest veterinarian is in Heppner, 35 miles away. A physician rides with the wagon train and carries a cellular phone for contact with both the committee members and the outside world.

A Day on the Trail

After the wagon master's traditional "Wagons Ho!" the teams leave camp about 8:30 a.m. and travel 10 to 12 miles a day. Experience has taught the committee to separate the wagons from the saddle horses. Riders are warned to keep their horses away from the wagons as the teams move out, and follow at a safe distance. Swaggert has seen more than one horse spook at the sight and sound of a rumbling wagon.

The teams get about an hour's head start before the horsebackers leave camp, since the pace of saddle horses is usually faster than that of the wagons. Many riders have the time to ride on side trails, periodically returning to the main route. A few, like committee members Bob and Carol Ewen, are appointed as scouts. They ride their wagon-proof horses up front with the wagon master and keep a look out for the few vehicles that travel the U.S. Forest Service roads.

Tally and Tradition

Wagon Master Gregg Zessin of Oregon went on his first wagon train in 1987. He says, "You can get into it reasonably or spend what you want." The 35-year-old says an average wagon will cost \$2,500. A rebuilt and personalized one can cost \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Like Lutje, the Zessins drives Belgians. "Belgians are easier to find here, and cheaper," Gregg Zessin says. Of the two Zessin Belgians, 6-year-old Bob is the more experienced. He has been teamed with 4-year-old Chip for about a year. Teams of Shires, Percherons, Clydesdales and mules are also used. Shandra Zessin says that driving a team of draft horses takes a lot of strength and concentration. "From one hour to the next they can change," she says. "I talk to them a lot. They can get into a big heap of trouble fast." She says the technique "comes all from your eyes."

Even though the wagons get first priority, horseback riders have always been welcome. Giving riders exposure to draft animals and wagons helps promote the art of driving. Under Lutje's tutelage, Laurie Nelson, 26, is learning to drive Daisy and Bambi. "I'm glad to see the young people in this," Lutje, 78, says. "Otherwise, driving won't continue."

Preserving the Past

The route of the Oregon Trail is difficult to follow nowadays. Cultivated fields and paved highways make it impractical for a 20th-century wagon train to retrace history. But a basic law of physics still applies: A wooden wagon wheel, its spokes held together with a metal rim, must go straight up and down hillsides. Traversing a slope will cause lateral play in the wheel. "Then the spoke pops up and the wheel is out," Swaggert explains. "If you don't have a wheel, you don't have a wagon."

Beginning in 1843, the Oregon Trail transported more than 300,000 people along its 1,924 miles between Missouri and Oregon City, Oregon. It has been called the largest voluntary migration in history. In 1852, the year when Swaggert's great grandfather made the journey, a wagon train made the trip in the record time of 141 days. It took six months for others. One person in 10 died before reaching his or her destination. There is a grave for every 80 yards of trail. Swaggert knows where to find some of the graves. He says they are often found at the bottom of steep hills, where the wagons broke loose from the teams, wrecked and claimed their victims. Swaggert concedes that this part of history doesn't need to be retraced. "We stay away from long hills."

Registration officially closed February 15 but they are still taking individual stragglers.

Wagon Train is always the last full week in June, this years dates are June 21 thru 26. We meet at our 1st camp on Monday (21st), have dinner, ride Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, have breakfast on Sat and go home. The price this year is \$375 which includes your meals, hay for your horse/ mule, pop, water, beer, showers are available and supplied by our Kesslers Katering (a fee is charged by Kesslers per shower). We ask that you arrive on Monday by 2:00 pm if possible (we take all rigs that people don't need to our last campsite where we have security to watch vehicles), the driver you mentioned with his own food is fine, if he needs a few beers we can work that out in June. We have our main mailing going out in a few days with a Waiver/Registration form, Clothing form, Meadow Muffin(informational page) etc.

If you will e-mail your address ASAP you will be on that list and we'll see you in the mountains.

If you have anymore questions don't hesitate to ask.

Thank You
Paul Green
Wagon Train President
541-377-0833
pendletonwagontrain@hotmail.com

Great Gravel Haul 2010 - March 6

Photos courtesy of Connie Bailey



From the Desk of the President:

The 'great gravel haul' on March 6th was a success. It was an effort of people filling buckets and buckets of fine and coarse gravel then transferring the loads to teams of packhorses and sturdy mules that then transported the rock up the trail to a crew that unloaded and raked the rock out. There were an estimated six to seven chapters of BCHW folks that participated along with the 'Friends of Capitol Forest' and DNR. Everyone included, there were at least 100 workers that participated. Our common goal was to restore threatened or washed out trails for use by horses, hikers and mountain bikers. We figure we moved 47,000 pounds of gravel that day just with the stock animals alone. We broke for lunch and gathered under and around a large tent where we

enjoyed good 'stick to your ribs' food; chili, bread, cookies, rolls and treats of various kinds. Costco contributed to the lunch and helped with the tent, tables and chairs. This coordinated effort makes it possible for folks to continue to appreciate and take advantage of Capitol Forest, a beautiful part of the Pacific Northwest. It was just a great day all around.

Steve Russell
President
Capitol Riders

WASHINGTON STATE PRIZE RIDES 2010, etc.

- Be sure to check with the ride host whether or not weed free feed is required by law, also any required parking permits.
- If you are going to any of the events, be sure to contact the ride host to check for updates. Sometimes dates change and I don't hear about.
- Please clean up around your trailer. We want the ride host able to use the land again next year.
- If you find changes or additions, please let me know. If you want an updated version, contact me (Peggy Wolf) at e-mail rosehunt@aol.com. This is the - February 2010 version.

Feb 12-14	Spirit of the West, Ellensburg, WA, ellensburgcowboygathering.com (888) 925-2204
Feb 20	Mossyrock Mountain Man Ride, Marsha (360) 880-4684, Jim 481-6449, mctimrm@msn.com , mossyrockerhorseandrider.com
Mar 7	4-H Tack Sale, Monroe (425) 308-2815
March 14	Rattlesnake Ridge Riders Chili Feed and Ride, Richland, cagauthier@yahoo.com (509) 967-5359, tchc.home.att.net/rrr.htm
March 19-21	BCHW Leadership Training, Auction, Dinner and Dance, Kittitas Valley Event Center (fairgrounds), Ellensburg, BCHW.org
April 23-25	Methow Valley Spring Ride, Twisp, mvbch.com/SpringRide.htm , Nancy Palagruti, (509) 997-4802, nanpal@wildblue.net
May 1	Horse-N-Around 4-H Club Prize Ride, Pack Forest, robin.harris@alaskaair.com , Robin Harris (360) 832-8192
May 8	Kitsap Saddle Club Green Mountain Prize Ride, www.thekitsapsaddleclub.org , Susan (360) 265-3535, JSBK@aol.com
May 8	Lewis County Chapter Ride at Burnt Ridge, Onalaska, Larry Davis (360) 262-9132, LCBCH.org
May 8	Inland Empire Chapter Ride at Fishtrap Lake, Ken Carmichael (509) 466-2225, iebch.com , kcarmichael@hughes.net
May 15	Alpine Lakes Chapter Ride, Joe Watt Canyon, Karen Bailey (509) 304-8701 alpinelakesbchw.com
May 15	Nisqually Chapter Play Day, Stewarts Arena, Yelm, nebchw.com
May 21-June 6	John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders cross-state ride, jwpwr.org
May 22	Oakland Bay Chapter, Kennedy Creek, Rollin or Debbie (360) 426-1998, rbinion@hctc.com , oaklandbaybchw.org
May 30	Sunstations Mounted Drill Team, Nile old sawmill site near Naches, Val (509) 952-4183, Vsippola@aol.com
May 30	Roslyn Riders Ride at Playfield SR 903, Roslyn, Maria Fisher (509) 649-2640 mariaf@bmi.net
June	McCleary Riders, Capitol Forest Evergreen Club, Barb (360) 482-4197 ibriding@centurytel.net / Laura 581-0081 cwgirl31@live.com
June 5	Ellensburg Rodeo Posse, Joe Watt Canyon, ellensburgrodeoposse.com , Punk Bender (509) 925-5215, punk@eburgchev.com
June 6	Eastern Washington AQHA Prize Ride, Silver Ridge Ranch, Easton; ewqha.com; camping info at silverridgeranch.com
June 12	Wenatchee Chapter Steak Ride, Eagle Creek, Leavenworth, Darlene Walton (509) 663-8615 waltonbd@clearwire.net
June 19	Willapa Hills Chapter Oxbow Hills, Eva (360) 934-5500 ekanic@hotmail.com , freewebs.com/willapahillsbchw/index.htm
June 19	Grays Harbor BCHW Ride, Mary M. Knight School in Matlock, Mary Owens, marvi@gmail.com (360) 482-8375
June 20-25	Gentlemen on Horseback, Kalispel Basin, Ken Carmichael (509) 466-2225 or Scott Wiggins (509) 868-1641
June 26	Treasure Hunt at Silver Ridge Ranch, Easton, silverridgeranch.com
June 26-27	Celebrate the Horse, Puyallup Fairgrounds, celebratethehorse.org

Calendar (partial) of Events for 2010 -

- Mar 19-21 BCHW meeting, Ellensburg
- Apr 6 General Meeting Littlerock firehall 7 pm
- Apr 23 Leave No Trace class Beausite Lake Kiwanis Camp, Chimacum, WA
- Apr 24 Leave No Trace class - pre-register by April 15 360-327-3611
- May 1 Garage sale - Joyce Nelson's 9 am to 3pm
- May 4 General Meeting Littlerock firehall 7 pm
- May 8 Dental Clinic Trails End Tumwater
- May 8 Burn't Ridge trail ride
- May 22 Kennedy Creek trail ride
- May 26-29 Joe Watt Canyon ride, Thorpe
- Jun 1 General Meeting Littlerock firehall 7 pm
- Jun 5 National Trails Day Project - Green Line #6 reroute of approx 100 feet



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