

Scatter Creek Riders

2025 Accomplishments

It was a busy year as usual with a mix of trail work, trail rides, camping, plenty of opportunities to eat and lots of other activities.

- **Work Parties (WP)** – our chapter’s contributions to the BCHW mission:
 - **Scatter Creek WDFW Trailhead**
 - SCR purchased another load of gravel and the WDFW did additional gravelling and regrading, the TH is in good shape. The mounting block started falling apart and Tom Parker took the incentive to fix it with no fanfare – go Tom! Ever since the TH was renovated with SCR’s help a few years ago, its popularity has increased dramatically with horseback riders.
 - **Scatter Creek trails**
 - Various chapter members and other BCH members kept the trails cleared. Thank you all for carrying the equipment needed to keep most of it under control, and others for having the pack stock needed to bring in chain saws, etc. for the big trees that were down.
 - **Capitol Forest –**
 - The chapter only needed to perform one Margaret McKenny cleanup last year due to low campground use.
 - The Happy Horse trail was extended to the Mima TH after going through a DNR approval process. SCR, Cap Riders and Nisqually chapter members blazed and flagged the route, DNR approved it, then the chapters brushed it so that DNR could come in with equipment and establish the new section of trail. This is an equestrian only section of trail allowing horseback riders to avoid the congestion along the beginning of the Mima East trail. Once riders began using it and the rains came, it got very muddy. As usual, DNR advised us to wait until the spring to start installing drainage and gravelling it. This trail caught on quickly and will be very popular in the long run.
 - The MnM Reroute trail project got off to a slow start. SCR members worked with Capitol Riders flagging a proposed route which was approved by DNR. It is currently on hold due to DNR state procedure changes.
 - **JBLM** – Leah Smith created a map of Area 23. She creates great maps!
 - **Dog Show Parking** – several SCR members worked various shifts helping the Violet Prairie Grange at the dog show at T9O Ranch. This earned the chapter some free VP Grange use days. This was a good chance to watch the goings on while directing

traffic. In particular, the Fast CAT trials, where dogs chase a lure in a 100-yard sprint to test their speed, was very fun to watch.

- **Fundraising** – we had another very successful group effort with our annual wreath sales – pre-sale, locating a new site which ended up close to home, bough gathering, wreath assembly and delivery of sold wreaths. This involved several WP days plus many hours pre-selling and delivering, and site location. The sales boosted our coffers by a substantial amount.
- **Chapter Representation** -several members attended meetings representing our chapter and/or BCHW.
 - **Legislative** – The BCHW Legislative day scheduled in 2025 was cancelled. At least some of us planned to attend this once annual event. This event usually has morning speakers followed by opportunities to meet with their district legislators or staff to discuss the bills that BCHW is following.
 - **BCHW Rendezvous** – some of our members attended this event. Unfortunately, weather kept many away due to bad weather and road conditions.
- **Education**
 - **Intro to Carts** – member Cheryl Westby provided this great opportunity for our members to introduce horse drawn (pony in this case) carts.
 - **Bit Fitting** – the lady that presented this was very informative. Good stuff.
 - **CPR Class** – this class was well attended at VP Grange. A local fireman did the training and the turnout was good.
 - **Parasite Control** - Veterinarian Hank Greenwald gave an informative presentation.
- **It's not all work** – there's a lot of camaraderie within the SCR chapter with trail riding, camping with our horses in beautiful places, potlucks and more.
 - **Chapter Rides** – Dick Bailey (DB) Memorial ride up to the DB site on the Equine Loop of Capitol Forest. Members rode many impromptu rides.
 - **Violet Prairie Trails** – these newly opened trails in 2025 have been very popular for chapter members to explore. Everything is still in development, but it's open to non-motorized folks.
 - **Chapter Camping Trips** – Ancient Lakes, Rock Creek, Mount Adams, and Kalama.
 - **Arena Fun Day** – held at Scatter Creek stables, this event had a good turnout for challenging obstacles and games, and the usual potluck held in the back yard of the stable owners Diane and Gary Snyder.
 - **Other Horse Group Rides** – many members attended various rides put on by:
 - Oakland Bay BCH – Kennedy Creek Fun Ride
 - Lewis County BCH – Burnt Ridge Ride
 - Appaloosa Club – Spotted Horse Ride

- **Game Days at VP Grange** – mostly card or dice games with potlucks are well attended.
- **Reichel 4th of July Chapter Party** – the Reichel's opened up their patio and yard and provided burgers, etc. for this annual event. The rest of us brought sides and desserts. Good turnout as usual and lots of fun.
- **Chapter Meeting Food** – we frequently had food before our meetings whether it be someone bringing cookies, or special planned ahead food such as pizza or pie by Dick Booth.
- **Annual Christmas Party** – this popular event started with silent and bucket auctions followed by a potluck with the main course provided by Dick Booth and paid for by the chapter. It is followed by a live auction and then present swap. Always well attended and enjoyed by all.