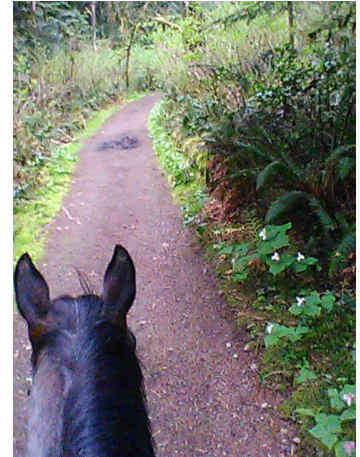


Trilliums are lining the trails, horse hair is wafting through the air, and the birds are definitely up to something. That can mean only one thing: Spring is here!

Read on to learn about our newly revamped English/Western show, get updated on the neighborhood news, and see our upcoming schedule of events.



Do you realize that it is now 2023?
That means it is time to **renew your LWSC membership!**

Go to <https://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/membership.html> to get this done.

And after you renew your membership, start planning your volunteer hours. All LWSC events need volunteers to run and there are volunteer opportunities for everyone.





LWSC English/Western Show Series

by Suzanne Hitz

This year the English/Western shows will be held May 27th, July 22nd and August 19th. This show series provides a relaxing and fun learning environment. If you are new to showing, maybe haven't shown before but want to have fun, these shows are for you. Maybe you have a new horse that you need to ease into the show environment? This show is just the environment you are looking for.

In addition to showmanship, English pleasure/equitation, Western pleasure/equitation, and Saddle Seat, this year's LWSC English/Western Show is offering Ranch Rail classes. Ranch Rail is a relatively new rail class whereby horse and rider work at more natural and forward gaits which are commonly used in ranch work. This class encourages a natural headset and extended gaits are often called for such as an extended walk, trot and lope.

If that isn't fun enough we are having Gymkhana classes during lunch. And if games aren't your thing, go for a trail ride in the 500-acre Bridle Trails State Park with over 25 miles of well-marked trails in a beautiful forest.

Ribbons awarded to 8th place, Division awards go to high point horse/rider pair and will receive a great prize. In addition to division awards for Western Performance, Western Ranch, English, and Saddle Seat these shows are part of the Thoroughbred Incentive Program (TIP) with division prizes for English TIP and Western TIP. And that's not all! We will also have year-end awards for the LWSC members at our annual banquet! As with all of the LWSC show series, 8 hours of volunteer time is required to be eligible for a year-end award. These hours can be served at any LWSC event.

These shows use a token system that costs \$15 per class. You buy the number of tokens you want and enter whatever class you want by giving a token to the gate keeper as you enter. Doesn't get much easier than that! Pre-registration is encouraged. You can learn more about the shows, view the class list, and register online at: <https://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/englishwestern.html>

In addition, in accordance with our club's mission of encouraging grass roots involvement, we are working to bring on individuals who are interested in getting into judging. This is a low key place to start, with friendly people and a low stress atmosphere. To this end, Sheri Spoltman, an experienced judge and show official in many disciplines, will be at the shows serving as Ringmaster and will be available to lend advice and help as requested by our judges. **This is a wonderful opportunity for anybody who is interested in getting into judging without being just thrown into the deep end!** Sheri can help with disciplines a new judge may not be familiar with (5-gaited horses, for example), and provide great tips, as needed.

To this end, our May show will be judged by a knowledgeable young professional involved in the Performance world, Mara Surelle. She is capable, enthusiastic, and is interested in getting more into judging. We are hoping to attract more just like her! **If you, or anybody you know, might be interested in judging an open show**, please contact me, Suzanne Hitz, at ewmanager@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org. I'd love to talk to you about it!

Bridle Trails Neighborhood News

by Karen Hall

My mare, Rush, and her friend, Osito, live at Lynn and Jim Erckmann's place in Bridlewood Circle. Bridlewood Circle is a beautiful, heavily treed area adjoining Bridle Trails State Park. As I am sure everyone remembers, last winter was a very windy one. One Monday morning in January we were in the middle of another windstorm. I had fed the horses and done the barnwork and gone home to get my own breakfast after making certain all four legged creatures were cared for before me.

I hadn't been home more than a half hour before I got a call from Lynn telling me a tree had come down on the barn roof. She told me the horses appeared to be okay. We have run-in stalls, so the horses had exited the barn rapidly when the tree hit. Lynn told me Rush looked agitated and Osito was running around. I live virtually across the street from Bridlewood Circle, so I was back over there in a few minutes. The falling tree had also taken down the powerline to the interior of Bridlewood Circle which was still energized and sparking and smoking along the fence line. Fortunately, the break was a ways down the fence line from where the horses are, so, while dramatic, we were able to get to the barn to survey the damage to horses and the structure.



One very large tree had fallen across the paddock and across the roof of the barn. What was almost unbelievable was that little more than a half hour after the tree hit, the horses were back in their stalls finishing up breakfast as if nothing had happened. I guess I know where their priorities are.

The barn is an older barn, and I had never envisioned it as being particularly stout, but it held up amazingly well. A couple of beams were broken and there were a couple of holes in the roof, but the structure was stable and standing. I was very impressed and grateful. If the roof had collapsed with the horses inside eating breakfast, I don't like to think about what would have happened.

PSE took a couple of hours to get the power cut to their line and the next day sent people out to remove the part of the tree that was down on their power line. That left the vast majority of the tree still on the barn. Lynn and Jim called out the Mike's Tree people to remove the bulk of the tree from the barn. This is not a job you can entrust to two cowboys with a chain saw. It's very difficult and dangerous. One wrong move, and you've got a tree on top of you. Mike's people were very professional, and watching them work was a very educational experience. I'm just glad I'm not paying the L&I insurance premiums on that business.

The barn has now been repaired. The tree is gone and all that remains is the stump. I will have to admit, the barn looks much better without a tree across it.

2023 Calendar of Events

May

- 13-14 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Clinic (Maya Black)
- 27 LWSC English/Western Fun Show
- 28 LWSC Dressage Schooling Show



June

- 2 LWSC Members only jumper schooling (5pm)
- 3-4 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show
- 10 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Clinic (Sally Collins)
- 11 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Academy Schooling Show
- 17 LWSC Trail Obstacle Training Day
- 25 LWSC Summer Prize Ride

July

- 1 BTPF "Ponies In The Park"
- 14 LWSC Members only jumper schooling (5pm)
- 15-16 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show
- 22 LWSC English/Western Fun Show
- 23 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Academy Schooling Show
- 29 LWSC Dressage Clinic
- 30 LWSC Dressage Schooling Show



August

- 5 LWSC Trail Obstacle Training Day
- 12 LWSC Equine & Vines Prize Ride
- 19 LWSC English/Western Fun Show
- 20 LWSC Academy Hunter Jumper Schooling Show
- 25 LWSC Members only jumper schooling (5pm)
- 26-27 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show



September

- 10 LWSC Dressage Schooling Show
- 22 LWSC Members only jumper schooling (5pm)
- 23-24 LWSC Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show

October

- 7 BTPF/LWSC Stewardship Day



*A new sculpture by one of my favorite artists.
He really has an original approach to his work.*