

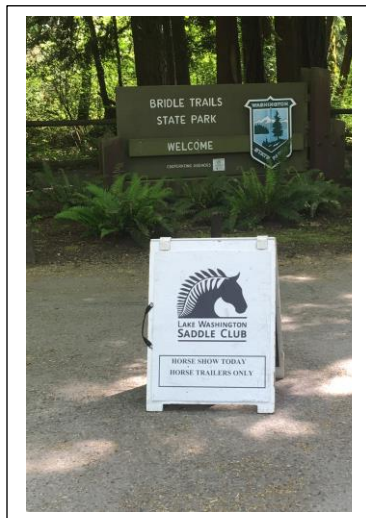


Lake Washington Saddler

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I'm incredibly late in getting an issue of the Saddler out, so all of my half written articles are tabled for the moment. But in the mean time, Show Season is well underway. We began in April with a Hunter/Jumper Clinic, and opened the shows with Dressage. As always, these are very well attended shows with a great, laid back atmosphere. Currently, the April and June Dressage shows are in the books, and the third is coming up on August 11. The final Dressage show is September 15, so make sure you get it on your calendar.

The Hunter/Jumper Shows are always well attended, and fill to capacity quickly. May and June are now past history, and we are looking forward to August 17 & 18th. The Finals will be on September 21 & 22. Please remember that in order to show in the Finals, you must have shown in at least one of the

previous three shows this calendar year. It should be a great finale, and our Hunter/Jumper show team are working hard to make it a special experience.



One of the things that Bridle Trails has always been known for is providing that first show ring experience. Many of the trainers who bring clients to the park talk about memories of Bridle Trails from their early competition days. In that spirit, an English/Western show series has been started. Last year was the initial debut. This year we've offered two of these shows. The classes range from Walk Only and Walk/Trot to Equitation and Pleasure in English, Saddle Seat and Western. Each time attendance has been a different group of people, and the reviews have been great.



The English/Western shows are designed as an easy going entry to showing. Laid back, with an emphasis towards novice riders and green horses. The shape of the show is continuing to evolve, and we'd love to get more feedback on what our members would like to see. Currently, we are working towards a Saddle Seat division. Saddle Seat Academy Riders are encouraged to look into these shows next year as a place to learn and try out showing. We would love to see more breeds such as Arabians and Morgan discovering the Park as a place to begin showing, as our judges are knowledgeable about more types than just traditional H/J or AQHA/APHA. Versatility is also another area that is being explored. This might be the top scoring horse/rider team that has competed in at least one class of each division – Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, and Western. These are some of the ideas that the show

team is thinking about. What would bring you to the show? We'd love to know! Email ewmanger@LakeWashingtonSaddleClub.org with your ideas.

Piggy-backing on the idea of the English/Western Shows has been the newest addition to the show lineup – The Academy Hunter Show. This show features Ground Poles to 18". It's a low key atmosphere for beginners and green horses. As the Hunter/Jumper Fun Shows have grown in popularity, it's become obvious that there was a need for a place for the more novice riders.

This gives the beginners a chance to show in the big ring, and take the time to work problems out without the time pressures of a sold out show. We've had two of these this year, and reviews have been great. Again, these are evolving, and our enthusiastic show manager has great plans for next year.

The Academy Shows will always be the Sunday following the English/Western (which are scheduled for Saturdays). So plan to come and work on the flat on Saturday, then jump on Sunday, while enjoying a trail ride in between.



The Lake Washington Saddle Club strives to focus on using the Park for the grass roots equestrian. This includes other activities besides showing. One of these is the Prize Rides. A Prize Ride, often called a Poker Ride, is a non-timed, marked Trail Ride. You pay an entry fee for one chance (or 'hand'). You can purchase up to three hands if you wish. Then you leave the staging area and follow the marked trail for about a two hour trail ride. There are several stations where you will stop, and an attendant will help you draw a number. The riders go out

at staggered times, then when the riders are back with their 'hands', the prizes are awarded. The numbers drawn at each station are added up for each hand and prizes are awarded based on highest score, then lowest score, etc., And my understanding is that the prizes are excellent! In the meantime, there is lots of times for socializing, and refreshments are available.

The next ride is on August 24, and is called 'Equines and Vines'. It will offer wine tasting for those who have completed the ride and are waiting for prizes to be awarded. This is a terrific way for riders unfamiliar (or uncomfortable) with trail riding to go on a structured ride, with a clear route. Hunter/Jumper and Dressage trainers – this would be a wonderful event to bring your students and horses, and get them used to riding outside the arena in a safe and structured environment.

The next day, on August 25th is the Obstacle Challenge and Training day. This is a chance to introduce your horse to different things and strengthen your partnership. You can hand walk or ride your horse around a variety of obstacles, taking as much time as you need with assistance or advice if you would like some. Obstacles include, but are not limited to things like gates, tarps, standing water, umbrellas, strollers, possibly miniature horses, llamas. The atmosphere is quiet, the focus is on giving our horses a chance to experience new, possibly scary things in a controlled and relaxing environment.



This is why Bridle Trails State Park is so special. These kids had found a birds nest on the ground, and were fascinated as they poked around beneath the tree to see what else they could find.

Other clinics and events are available, and make sure to check the calendar on the Lake Washington Saddle Club website. And remember to support what you enjoy. That tells the Board what we should continue providing in the way of clinics and shows, and what isn't working and should be tabled.

One of the benefits of Membership in Lake Washington Saddle Club is that many of these events offer discounts in the entry fees to member. Also, year end awards are available for many of the shows, which will be awarded to members at the banquet on November 9th.

Please remember that this is your club. If there is something you'd like to see, or an idea you have please pass them along to me so I can get them to the various show managers. We hope to see you at the Park this summer!

Bridle Trails Park Foundation Park User Survey

Bridle Trails Park Foundation is conducting a park user survey and is asking LWSC to distribute this survey to equestrians. **We urge you to please take a few minutes and provide input.**

Bridle Trails Park Foundation offers environmental education, interpretive programming and stewardship opportunities, and organizes and sponsors unique annual community events. The Foundation currently funds more than 50% of the annual operating costs of Bridle Trails State Park.

The Foundation is seeking feedback to enhance visitor experiences and meet the needs of the community while protecting, preserving, and maintaining Bridle Trails State Park and its unique equestrian culture.

Respondents who provide their email at the end of the survey will be entered into four monthly drawings to receive a \$50 gift card from a favorite local retailer.

The survey will take approximately 5 minutes. Here is the link to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/59CQWLX>

We appreciate your time and feedback!

Park Stewardship Day - September 28, 2019

Lake Washington Saddle Club is teaming up with State Parks and Bridle Trails Park Foundation to provide some much needed maintenance help at Bridle Trails State Park. LWSC involvement will be focused on helping with arena maintenance and will include help to refurbish the footing at both the powerline arena and the main arenas. Resources permitting, we may also work to maintain the obstacles at the Acheson Property.

We all enjoy the equestrian facilities at Bridle Trails whether we use them as private citizens or as part of shows and events. **This is an opportunity to give back and demonstrate that we are stewards of this Park we love so much. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 28th and plan on helping!** The work party is expected to happen from 9am to Noon. We will meet at the show grounds picnic area. Please bring steel rakes, gloves and possibly other garden tools like clippers and hoes (for the powerline arena). The primary task will be to rake in the footing from the outside rim of the arena back into the arena. At the powerline arena, the forest is making an attempt to reclaim the space so we will need to remove weeds and plants. Refreshments will be provided. If you do not already have your volunteer hours completed, this event will count towards those hours.