



Lake Washington Saddler

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Now is a great time to renew your membership!

It's that season, renew your membership season. If you are a NEW member, just joined in November or December of last year, your membership fee will include 2017. Otherwise, please consider taking care of 2017's membership dues right now, by going to this link:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/membership.html>

as always, you can renew online, using Paypal, or print off a form, fill out and send off with a check to the address shown on the page. Many thanks!

Natures Diary

We need some Spring, don't we? It's been quite the winter, and we are all looking for a bit of Spring to cheer us up. Well, last time I was out in the Park, I didn't see much. The rains, coming hard on the tail of the melting snows, had left gigantic puddles. In places where there were wetlands just below 'bridges', the water had accumulated and was a good 4 or 5 inches deep over the trail. Some trails had streams, literally flowing water, coming right down the middle of the trail. And, there were downed trees everywhere.

It's not like this is anything we haven't seen before. (Though the puddles were THE deepest I've seen in 17 years!). And, they made for really great training obstacles on our last ride. Not so easy to get a horse to walk through water where he cannot see the bottom.

Riding out with Candice Boyd, on her trusty steed, Hilda, we came across some downed branches that were too high to step over and required Candice to hop off (she rides bareback), hold the branch down, while Xerxes and I rode over, ponying Hilda. Great job all! But, to no avail. We found further on the

little trail to be utterly impassable. So, it's turn around and go through the whole routine again. Thanks, Candice! Oh well, on the way back to the barn, what did I hear? The bird song of Winter Wrens and Robins, getting ready to claim a mate and build nests and make babies! Spring. Again. And I am so grateful!

Entry Fee Scholarships offered!

This year, for the first time, the club will be offering members scholarships to cover entry fees to one show. For example, hunter/jumper show weekend, a Dressage show, a Trail Obstacle Day or one of the two Prize Rides. Basically, it means, for one show or event in your desired discipline . . . NO FEES!

These are merit based and we ask that you apply through this link:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/entry-fee-scholarship.html>

We are asking for a short essay on your horsemanship passion. This isn't an SAT test, or a college entrance essay. Just a bit about why you show/compete, and what horses mean to you. In addition, a letter of recommendation from your trainer, or parent/friend if you do not have a trainer. There will be multiple winners. Give it a go!

Mark Your Calendar for the Easter Scavenger Hunt on April 15th

In our continuing effort to provide fun events for our trail riding members, we are going to try an Easter-themed scavenger hunt. We will provide a marked trail and riders will ride along the trail route and write down any Easter themed items they see along the trail (but don't take them, just write down a description of the item... for example, pink rabbit, purple egg, etc.). Those participants who identify all the items will draw numbers and then select prizes. We have never put on a scavenger hunt before but we are going to try it, it should be fun!

Clinics are back – Sign up soon before they fill up!

LWSC is offering a number of clinics again this year. Clinics are a great way to start out the riding season. Take advantage of these clinics to learn new skills, create a stronger partnership or get great advice from professionals in your discipline. There will be a Hunter Jumper Clinic, April 29-30, a Dressage Ride and Review Clinic May 13th and two Horsemanship clinics, one May 24-28 and another July 26-30. For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/clinics.html>

Trail riders! Log your trail riding hours

Don't forget to go to our web site and log in the hours that you spend out trail riding so you will be eligible for the year end award for most trail hours logged. Last year our winner was Karen Hall and her mare, Rush, and I hear she's got her eyes on the prize for this year, too! Let's see if

we can't throw a little competition her way. LOG them trail riding hours!! It only takes a minute. We will have ribbons and prizes for the winners at the year end banquet. Plus, we will be reporting the minutes/hours ridden periodically in the Saddler and it is really fun, and surprising, to see just how many minutes we ride.

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/log-trail-time.html>

501c3 Status Update

Many thanks to everyone who participated in voting on the New Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. We have completed all the necessary paperwork and in December we submitted our request to the IRS. Our attorney tells us we should hear back in 90 to 120 days so we are waiting, as patiently as possible, to hear back. Hopefully it will be good news and we will be a 501c3. The LWSC Board will be going on a 2 day retreat at the end of March where we will discuss an overall strategy for this change and what it means for our operations and future. We are excited about the possibilities and look forward to moving forward as a 501c3.

New Board Member!

I'm not sure if I mentioned this, but we have a new member on our LWSC board; Candice Boyd!

Candace has lived in our area for over 20 years, but she comes originally from Manila (the Philippines). A horse lover from way back, she had horses when she lived in Virginia, and happily, is back into horse ownership here in Bridle Trails. You may see her out and about on her beloved Hilda, the Fjord pony, or on her new mount, Diablo the coal black Friesian. She hopes to sink her roots here and support the equestrian lifestyle here for many years to come.



We now have 11 board members. We can welcome as many as 13 board members. If you are interested in becoming a board member, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact me at my email: saddler@lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org

Construction in the Park Showgrounds

You may have seen some heavy machinery down at the entrance to the main parking lot and around the rings themselves. After years of being on a septic system, Bridle Trails State Park is

going onto the **city sewer system**. State Park management assure us that construction will be finished in time for our earliest show dates.



In the meantime, there may be noise and confusion there for a few weeks. Access to the dressage arena will be temporarily cut off, and access to the warm up arena, and main arena will be through a temporary gate, on the side closest to the pathway that connects to the parking lot, closest to the hillside. If your horse is one who will be difficult to handle with the commotion nearby, then please consider avoiding the rings until the construction is finished. We will keep you updated.

Also, with regard to another construction project connected to BTSP, the **Acheson property's** teardown project is going out to bid and is expected to be completed by June. It seems the house was a possible candidate for "historic" status, which would prohibit it's removal. However, that issue has been resolved and both the barn and the house will be demolished. Until this project is complete, access to the property by car is still blocked. You can, as always, ride in and enjoy the trail obstacles that have been built there.

You may have noticed the sign at the **Water Tower at the south end of the Park**. The City of Bellevue has started a project to replace the current water tower. Unlike the project they proposed a few years ago, Bellevue is working within the current footprint of the water tower and the project will not adversely impact the surrounding woods. The project is in the early stages and LWSC, along with WA State Parks, are part of the advisory team that is working with the City of Bellevue as plans are developed. At this point any construction is months away, we will keep you posted!

Bridle Trails State Park Environmental Education Center

Another major construction project that is on the horizon for the Main Showgrounds area will be the new "Environmental Education Center" sponsored by the Bridle Trails Park Foundation in conjunction with the State Parks, and in consultation with the LWSC. This has been a dream of the Foundation for a long time, and they are working very hard to come up with an excellent design that will work for their needs, while not impacting our needs.

While the overall design and placement is NOT final, at this point, as things currently stand in the planning process, it might be sited in the south end of the parking lot. The design is taking into account the Club's stables, horse trailer parking requirements and the lunging area so Club requirements are being included.

The Center will be approximately 35 by 50 feet in size and will basically be a classroom or meeting space with bathrooms and outdoor seating space adjacent. Imagine the wonderful classes in mushroom identification, or art classes centered on the nature of the park. We would be able to use the classroom for meetings and other educational activities pertaining to horses and horse keeping, and with a round pen nearby, this will be great for clinics and other presentations with real live horses right there! The plans include a covered cross-tie area specifically for equestrian demonstrations. The design has a ton of potential, really. We just have to use our imaginations.

We believe that the center will ultimately be a great asset to the entire park. We look forward to helping with the planning and expect to enjoy it for many years. Of course, it won't happen overnight and with all the red tape associated with building anything, we expect it to take at least a few years.

NEW! Sturdy, no-maintenance picnic tables!

The State Parks have replaced all of the old wooden picnic tables with brand new picnic tables at the main show grounds, up at the powerline arena and at Acheson. When first consulted on this, the LWSC board had to consider if the aesthetic of 'plastic' tables would be a good fit for our 'rustic' park. And, would they be strong enough to use as a mounting block. Because, I don't know about you, but I need a TALL mounting block, and as you can see, the table works well, very solid and stable.



(Shirley DiJulio and Luna)



and Caroline mounting Xerxes.

Club Swag

As you know, we now have the prettiest logo in the world, and it looks majorly spiffy on all kinds of wearable swag. We have been using one embroidery/sales outlet up until recently but have found the sales procedure there to be too awkward. As a result, we may no longer have direct purchase options online, however, we will have an inventory of items, in a reasonable array of sizes, available at shows for immediate purchase. If you really, really want a polo, or a vest or ?, and we don't have it in your size, we can order it for you. Just let us know what you want and need. And, if you are interested in manning the "Swag booth" at a show, please, please don't hesitate to let us know. It counts for volunteer hours earned for year end awards! Without volunteers, we can't run the booth.

Upcoming Scheduled Shows/events:

For the full schedule of shows, clinics and events, go to :

<http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/park-calendar.html>

Our First events of the Season will start in **April**. They are:

April 15, Saturday Easter themed Scavenger Hunt

April 22 Bridle Trails Park Foundation Earth Day volunteer work party

April 23 Equestrians Institute Dressage show

April 29/30 Hunter Jumper clinic : <http://www.lakewashingtonsaddleclub.org/clinics.html>

**Put on a few pounds over the Holidays?
Wanna see what it'll take to 'ride' it off?**

Horse Activities - Calories burned per hour:

ACTIVITY:	For 130 lb person:	For 155 lb person:	For 190 lb person:
Shoveling	354 cal/hr	422 cal/hr	518 cal/hr
General Horse Riding:	236 cal/hr	281 cal/hr	345 cal/hr
Riding horse at the walk:	148 cal/hr	176 cal/hr	216 cal/hr
Riding horse at the trot:	384 cal/hr	457 cal/hr	561 cal/hr
Riding horse at a gallop:	472 cal/hr	563 cal/hr	690 cal/hr
Horse Grooming	354 cal/hr	422 cal/hr	518 cal/hr
Baling hay/cleaning barn:	472 cal/hr	563 cal/hr	690 cal/hr
Shoveling Grain	325 cal/hr	387 cal/hr	474 cal/hr
Fencing	354 cal/hr	422 cal/hr	518 cal/hr
Polo	472 cal/hr	563 cal/hr	690 cal/hr
Hiking, cross country (if your horse is hard to catch...)	354 cal/hr	422 cal/hr	518 cal/hr
Brisk walking 4 MPH	236 cal/hr	281 cal/hr	345 cal/hr
Walking, carrying 15 lb load:	207 cal/hr	246 cal/hr	302 cal/hr

Editor's Note: Please accept my apologies for the long delay in getting out ANY issue of the Saddler. All I can say is that it's been a very rough year for me (2016), so I look forward to a better 2017. May I share a recent painting with you all?

