

Hi Cutters,

Welcome to my first President's letter, Scott warned me that Sharon would not let me off the hook on this and I can tell you, he is right. I would like to thank Scott for the last few years as President, he has done a great job helping the club get through some rough patches as well as getting us prepared for the future.

We had a very productive year end meeting, much was accomplished and as is usual, change is a constant.

First, the decision has been made to move several shows to the Moses Lake fairgrounds. The fairground offers RV hookups, a great stall situation and they are in the process of developing a new indoor arena. We will have both indoor and outdoor cuttings. It is the feeling of the board and many cutters that WCHA needs to work toward having a permanent home; we are hopeful that this will be it. We are also scheduled to have two shows at Bonina. At this time, we are working on the location for the LAE. We are also co-approving the OCHA show in February in Albany. Several WCHA members attended their show last year and had a great time. OCHA offers very reasonable entry fees it is a good location and a great way to get the season going. All WCHA members will be required to join OCHA but they are paying back the club on every run.

NCHA Days will be held this year in Pasco at the Trac. As we did last year, we are working to get every Area 1 affiliate to put added money into the pot; they would be paid back based on the profitability of the show. This is the same agreement that we had last year with OCHA, we received back about 66% of the money that we put into the added money. We are looking at raising the purses this year; this should be decided at the January board meeting. If you have thoughts concerning NCHA days, please let anyone on the board know. It is our goal to make this show *the* Major weekend event of the year.

One of our major issues is getting entry level cutters into the club. We are moving in a couple of directions to improve our results in this area. First, we are going to offer a 1,000 rider class that will be held in the middle of the day. We are still working out the details of how to make this the choice for these riders, if you have suggestions, please let me know. We will also be revamping our entry fee structure, again, an attempt to lower costs for these entry cutters. This should help the profitability of the club.

We are will in the process of filling committees and are looking for volunteers. If you have an interest in helping, please let me know. I am mulling over the thought of adding a show committee, this group would be responsible for making sure that the shows run smoothly and that we are meeting the needs of the cutters as well as making sure that the shows operate smoothly, sort of a show operations group. If you are interested in getting involved at the show level let me know.

I am excited about the coming year; WCHA cutters are a great group of people. I look forward to seeing all of you down the road.

Brad