



MEMEKAY HORSE CAMP & RECREATION SITE

Things to know before you go!

This document is meant to provide users with important information before going camping at the Memekay Horse Camp. Please read the signs at the camp for more information or email contact.northvi@bchorsemen.org if you have questions.

Be kind, courteous and stay safe while enjoying the off-grid, remote wilderness experience.

The operation and maintenance of the horse camp and recreation sites are done by volunteers alongside Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC).

Donations are appreciated.

Donations may be made by e-transfer nvitreasurer2024@gmail.com

MEMEKAY HORSE CAMP – Salmon Brewster area:

1. THERE ARE NO RESERVATIONS - FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE (horses and permit holders do have priority).
2. Water: through donations and fundraising, North Vancouver Island (NVI) volunteers order water to be delivered 2-3x per year for the sole purpose of having “horse water” on site. It is non-potable water aka not treated to drinking water standards and is not meant for human consumption.
3. Off grid: RSTBC Horse Camps and trails are “off-grid”. Things to consider:
 - Create an emergency plan before leaving home (see attached example)
 - Consider investing in an In-Reach, Spot or Zoleo off-grid communication device - it could save your life
 - Download the Avenza app (mapping application for your phone) and load the Horse Council BC trail maps for free for: Memekay grazing lease and Salmon Brewster trail corridor
 - Consider what emergency tools to take along for both you and your equines

4. Groups of 14 or more must obtain a permit from RSTBC further to *Forest Range Act*, Section 16:
 - Groups of 14 or more have priority for the campsite, but not exclusivity
 - NVI will arrange to put up a sign communicating permit dates approximately seven (7) days in advance. Send an email to deboakman@gmail.com (RSTBC/NVI partner liaison) with a copy of the permit application and approval letter from the District Recreation Officer
 - Events under Section 16 do not offer exclusive use of the site. Permit holders need to be prepared and plan for other users if they show up to use the site during the event. No one wants to arrive and have no place to park and secure their horse. Note: electric fencing and panels are allowed within the horse camp/recreation site area.
 - If life changes and you have a permit and won't be camping or you require less sites, please let us know *within 10 days* of your camping plans.
5. Be kind and respectful to people arriving that are unaware of RSTBC policies and Back Country Horsemen of BC (BCHBC) NVI responsibilities for the camp. Back Country (NVI) members are not “enforcers”; however, we do have a responsibility to report any incidents. We also are able to hand-out RSTBC brochures and a copy of this information sheet.
6. If you are an NVI chapter member, please remember we are the “hosts” via formal Partnership Agreement with RSTBC. Please do not get into confrontations but rather refer visitors to the group shelter and signage, or, hand out a brochure (located in the box at the shelter, or kiosk). Please report any incidents to deboakman@gmail.com as the NVI chapter Liaison with RSTBC. We have an obligation to report any issues or concerns (RSTBC incident forms available in box at the shelter, or kiosk).
7. Read the RSTBC camping rules (rules about dogs, quiet time, etc) which are posted at the group shelter.
8. Do not use sawdust in the paddocks.
9. Use hay bags or feeding bins and take any leftover hay home with you. Garbage bags work great for this. Minimize your impact. Remember **it is volunteers that must clean up what you leave behind** - pack it in, pack it out.

10. Clean and rake your paddocks before leaving.

11. Please sign the guest book! RSTBC requires annual visitor count information. Knowing who is using the horse camp is integral to its success. **Having an estimate of how many people use and enjoy the camp helps us provide annual user statistics as well as support to access grant money for camp and trail improvements.**

a. Visitor Data Statistics RSTBC likes to receive:

- i. # of people in your group
- ii. How many nights did you visit?
- iii. not spending the night? please record one day if you are there for a partial day, ie: picnic, walk through, checking the camp, trail inspection, picnic, hike, workbee, etc.
- iv. Date of arrival; date of departure;
- v. # of horses in your group;
- vi. Where did you travel from?
- vii. General comments: - did you camp, ride, hike, go caving?, etc. enjoy yourself? See any wildlife? Condition concerns of the camp/recreation site or trail?
- viii. If you are there to do some maintenance? – trail clearing? Other repairs/maintenance? Clean outhouses? Please record # of people; # of hours, where did you travel from?
- ix. Accommodation? Ie: tent, truck/camper, motorhome, LQ, Travel trailer, etc.

12. Donations are greatly appreciated to operate and maintain camp/recreation sites and trails, e-transfers may be sent to nvitreasurer2024@gmail.com

a. Examples of use of donations:

- i. Outhouse cleaning supplies;
- ii. Repairs and maintenance to wood stove; paddocks; other structures (gates, etc);
- iii. Water for the horses (generally delivered 3x/year, Memekay horse camp only);
- iv. Manure management (currently volunteer equipment and operator, honorarium provided in recognition of fuel and equipment use).
- v. Trail work (danger trail clearing, brush cutting crew, equipment re: drainage)

Resources:

1. Recreation Sites and Trails BC - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/camping-hiking/sites-trails>
2. Horse Council of BC - Trail Database - <https://hcbc.online/Trails>
3. Want to get involved? Follow up on Facebook or Instagram for work bees or check out our website to become a member - <https://bchorsemen.org/membership>

Questions? Please email contact.northvi@bchorsemen.org

PLEASE NOTE: The BCHBC NVI chapter has renewed its 10 year Partnership Agreement for the maintenance and operation of the Salmon Brewster approx 40 km horse trail corridor and Memekay, Pine Marten, Brewster horse camps/recreation sites (April 1st 2024 to March 31st, 2034).



Back Country Horsemen Society of British Columbia Emergency Plan for Sanctioned Group Rides

Before you ride out, have a plan so if an accident occurs in the back country you are prepared. There are 2 key pieces of information necessary to get help to you as fast as possible:

- 1. Communication** – Designate someone on the ride to have a means of 2 way digital communication with the outside world (cell phone, satellite phone, Spot device, In-reach) Most areas dial 911 but not all, check. Make a list of other emergency numbers specific to your riding area: Police, Fire and Ambulance. Designate a communications person to carry this information with the communication device.
- 2. Location** – someone back home should have a list of where you are going, with who, when you left and when you can be expected back. A GPS can give you latitude and longitude coordinates, so can some apps on a cell phone. Designate a person to track your location.

If an incident happens, here are some steps to follow:

STOP – make sure that you and all the other people and stock are safe. Designate someone to be in charge of that. Communicate and have them report back to the person in charge.

ASSESS – the situation and the injuries to humans and/or horses with your First Aid person. Stay calm and stay safe especially around an injured horse. If in doubt about an injury call 911 immediately and do not move the injured human or horse unless their safety is at risk. If 911 is not available, send at least 2 people out to call and bring emergency services back. Communicate with everyone, on what is happening.

TREAT – according to basic First Aid principles until professional help can arrive.

*NOTE: if the Ride Leader is injured, one of the drag or flank riders should take over, or some other pre-designated person with the abilities. BCHBC encourages all riders to take a Basic First Aid and Navigation courses.

Fill out an Incident report form available from the BCHBC website library.



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Sample Emergency Response Plan Document

Ride/work bee location (include gps info if you have it):

Name and contact info of the Ride leader and assistants:

Name and contact info of a person that knows where you are on this day: _____

Emergency Contact Numbers

Name	Main phone number	Region
Emergency	911	Could be limited in some areas of BC
Nearest Search and Rescue		
Nearest Police/RCMP		
Nearest Hospital		
Forest Fire	1-800-663-5555 or 911	
Poison Control		