

Spruston Road – Horse Trailer Parking Area - Development

The development of the horse trailer parking site has been a huge success thanks to the many volunteers hours, fund raisers and funding from Horse Council.

After approval from the Provincial South Coast Recreation District, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, to develop a horse trailer parking area on an old landing site that grew nothing but broom - development of the site started in early 2013, with some of the broom being removed by a commercial brush cutting machine donated by both Dwayne Carson and Todd, Davidson, Davidson Contracting. Although this sufficed for the site to be used, it was far from ideal, as too much broom remained, leaving the site completely unusable for any large events.

In early 2014, this Chapter applied for and received a funding grant from Horse Council BC to have the ride site surface cleared of all the broom. Island Aggregate donated their employees time and equipment, along with Dwayne Carson of D&J Holdings, and the site was cleared, machine groomed and leveled. Now the site was safe useable for large equestrian events.

In late August, all three equestrian groups; Backcountry Horsemen of BC, BC Competitive Trail Riders Association and the Endurance Riders Association of BC, were involved in hosting a long distance event which included a 50 mile endurance sanctioned ride, as well as a 25 mile limited distance and a shorter BC Competitive Trail event. Guests attending this event referred to it as a “**colossal effort**” and were thrilled to be able to use a public site – the only one of its kind on the Island, to host this type of event. This ride site now sees day parking, just about every weekend and throughout the weekday.

Central Vancouver Island Chapter members logged over 300 hours of volunteer work such as collecting and hauling garbage, maintaining trails and hand grooming the site, as well as grass seeding the site.

The equestrian community continues to enjoy a highly valued recreational opportunity with direct riding access to the Crown lands and the TCT

As well as improving the site site, the original TCT trail at the top of Spruston was on the extreme side of “horse unfriendly”. An old mountain bike trail running parallel with the TCT routing was opened up and the equestrians have enjoyed a safe route through this area. Currently, with easy access to a large parking area and the trails - the TCT from Spruston to the Haslam Creek has seen a “significant” increase in horse activity, both during the week day and the weekends. Finally, the equestrians have a safe place to park their large rigs and a safe trail system to enjoy.

As we move into 2015, we will be looking at further grant applications and are hoping to pursue funding for signage, trail development and site development. Also as we plan our events for 2015, this ride site will be considered again for an endurance ride.

Lynn deVries, Chair,

Central Vancouver Island Chapter,

Backcountry Horsemen Society of BC

Site before any development





2013 – Davidson Contracting cutting through Broom bush



January 2014 – horse trailer parking amongst row of broom



May 2014 – Island Aggregate begins site clearing









August 2014 – BCCTRA and ERABC event





October Poker Ride Fund Raiser



November 2014 Rock Removal and Grass Seeding – work party



Grass coming up in late November 2014



December 2014, Ditching to prevent roadway water from flooding site





2015 – Spruston Ride Site will be the location of the Ocean Vista CTR and Endurance combo



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2015 Events and Schedule

What follows is a list of events based on a planned schedule for the riding season. Check this regularly as this is where registrations forms will be located for rides as well as other information. Additional events may be added throughout the year.

Ocean Vista CTR (Van Isle); May 30

Level 1 & 2 CTR / 22 & 50 Mile Endurance Combo Ride.

Information and Registration Forms to follow soon.

Contact [Nancy Gourlay](#) for further information.

Spring 2 Summer CTR (Van Isle); June 20

More information coming soon.

Cariboo Plateau CTR & Endurance Ride (Mainland); August 8.

Level 1 & 2, and 50 Mile Endurance Ride.

Information and Registration Forms to follow soon.

Contact [Joanne Macaluso](#) for further information.

Alberni Valley Log Train Trail CTR (Van Isle); September 5/6

More information coming soon.