

BACKCOUNTRY HOOFBEATS

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 BackCountry Horsemen Flathead

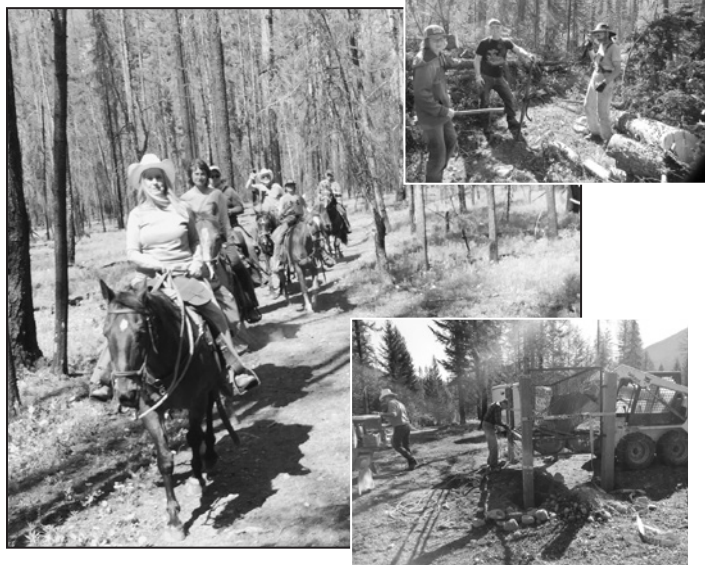
Meadow Creek May 25-28

Join the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead for our annual project at Meadow Creek Trailhead. We will be opening multiple trails in the area, as well as cleaning up the campground and repairing some trailhead facilities. There will be plenty of activities to do horseback and on the ground.

Take the east side reservoir road from Coram, then 55 miles to the bridge over the South Fork, then 12 miles on Meadow Creek Road to the trailhead and campground.

Bring your own camping arrangements (camper, tent), lawn chairs, cups, plates and eating utensils. We usually have cooks who make breakfasts, lunches are on your own, and dinners are potluck. There is no potable water at Meadow Creek so bring as much water as you can. The Forest Service will provide stock water. Weed seed free hay is mandatory for feeding your stock.

Watch your email for more details about this project, or call Ralph Hopkins 253-8276 or Steve Barker 270-5433.



Horse & Bike Education

Charline Payne, a Foy's to Blacktail Trails board member, came out to the Flathead Area Mountain Bikers kids clinic last summer at Herron Park. She gave a talk about interactions with horses on the trail. Her story was from the horse's point of view. It was a great message to the youngsters, and all trail users could benefit from taking a moment to consider other users' perspectives. Here were the main talking points:

1. The most important thing for all trail users (runners, hikers, cyclists and equestrians) is to communicate. Bikers should stop, stand upright and loudly say hi.
2. As animals, horses are keenly aware that they may become dinner to a mountain lion, so that is the first thing on their minds. Cyclists should get off



their bikes, stand upright and speak loudly so the horse recognizes them as human. Stay on the downhill side of the trail because a predator would only attack from above.

3. Well trained horses, like 14 year old Sunny pictured here, can be around other trail users without getting spooked. Younger horses and those being trained may not be as comfortable in their interactions. Approach with caution and communicate with the rider about the best way to pass each other.

Enjoy the summer and let's keep it friendly out there! Say Hi, Pass Wide!!!

- From Foy's to Blacktail Trails Facebook Page

BCHF Officers & Directors

President— Ed Langlois
Vice President— Jim Thramer
Treasurer— Deborah Schatz
Secretary— Greg Schatz
State Directors— Ralph Hopkins and Greg Schatz
Alternate State Director—Keni Hopkins
Board of Directors—
John Andenoro June Burgau Dan Oursland
Verna Barker Ed Langlois Stu Sorensen
Steve Barker Rick Maedje
Calling Committee/Email Vol.—Ralph & Keni Hopkins
Historian—Vacant
Hospitality Chair—Phyllis Ausk & Dan Oursland
Issues Committee—Deborah Schatz & Greg Schatz
Leave-No-Trace Chair—June Burgau
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Membership Chair—Keni Hopkins
Newsletter Committee: Jim Thramer, Editor, Keni Hopkins,
Deborah Schatz & Chris Jolly
On-Time Drawings/Prizes— Vacant
Parliamentarian—Russ Garvin
Publicity Chair—Joim Thramer
Safety/Training Coordinator—Gary Dalen
Trails Project Coordinator— Dan Oursland
Website—Deborah Schatz and Ralph Hopkins

THE PURPOSE OF BCH

The Back Country Horsemen is organized to:

- Perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of horses in the back country.
- Assist government agencies in maintenance and management of the resource.
- Educate, encourage and solicit active public participation in wise and sustaining use of horses and use by people commensurate with our heritage and the back country resource.

BCH Meeting Calendar

All GENERAL meetings are held on the SECOND Tuesday of each month. All BOARD meetings are held on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome!! Meetings are held at the Fish, Wildlife and Parks building, 490 Meridian Rd. in Kalispell and begin at 7:30 PM.

May

8th — General Meeting 22nd — Board Meeting

June

12th — General Meeting 26th — Board Meeting

July

10th — General Meeting 24th — Board Meeting

Check out BCH of the Flathead's new website at:

<http://www.bchmt.org/flatbch/>

Please send comments/additions to your webmaster
Deborah Schatz.

President's Corner by Ed Langlois

I will start off by introducing myself. My name is Ed Langlois. I was elected President of the BCHF for the year 2018. Recovering from a total knee replacement, I was unable to attend any meetings until the January board meeting.

Jim Thramer, BCHF's Vice President stepped up and took over any duties until I was able to do so. Thank you, Jim. As both of my knees have been replaced in the last year, I will not be able to use that excuse for not attending a meeting in the future. Will say I'm glad I was born with only two knees.

BCHF is off to a great start this year from what I can see. Never having been a President of a volunteer organization before, I knew I had to turn to someone who could give me some guidance and advice. The name that came to mind was Roland Cheek.

I knew Roland was one of the founders of the BCHF. Also realized that it had to have taken a lot of dedication and work, while gaining knowledge in the process, to go from the romantic story of sitting around the campfire talking about the need for a service organization to educate the public about the worth of public lands and the big part that the horse played in the development of public lands as we know them today. Also, the idea of assisting the various public agencies in their duties in a way that they would have respect for our input.

I found Roland and his wife Jane to be very gracious people. I have found in my visits that Roland takes his time to think things through before he gives a very thoughtful answer to my questions. Both he and Jane have given me some very good advice and ideas on being President. Also, why and for what a service organization exists. BCHF was formed as a service organization and will remain one. I will continue to seek out ideas and advice from Roland and Jane in the future and also other members as well.

BCHF as stated earlier is off to a great start. We had a well-attended Christmas party and our annual pot-luck in February was also a great success, new members have been signing up. Have set dates for our saw training, first aid, packing, and defensive horsemanship clinics. We have chairpeople for Earth Day and Memorial Day weekend



Continued on page 4

2018 Trail Project List

We are a **volunteer service organization**, and invite anyone who wishes to join us as we assist the Forest Service and other government agencies in education, clearing trails, improving trailheads or by packing in supplies and tools to other groups working in the back country. We are also willing to mentor those interested to learn the art of using horses to transport various cargos in and out of back country locations.

Horsemen, hunters, or hikers, if you have a trail or trail head that you use needing improvement, please give us your input. Forest Service funds to manage trails are shrinking, so it is important that we work on those trails, to best serve the needs of those who use them. Call Ed Langlois, President (885-3560), or Dan Oursland, Trail Committee (752-3040) with input or questions.

MAY

May 5: Packing Clinic/Pig Roast at North Valley Eagles (Greg Schatz 261-5450)

May 7-12: Forestry Expo (Steve Barker 270-5433)

May 8: 7:30 pm General meeting

May 22: 7:30 pm Board meeting

May 25-28: Meadow Creek trail clearing, multiple trails (Ralph Hopkins 253-8276)*

TBD: Big River, trailhead repair (Greg Schatz 261-5450)

JUNE

June 2: Big River, trail 155 into Spruce Park, trail clearing (Jim Thramer 212-3146)

June 9: Elk Mountain, trail clearing (Jim Thramer 212-3146)

June 12: 7:30 pm General meeting

June 23: Ousel Peak, west trail 368 (Jim Thramer 212-3146)

June 26: 7:30 pm Board meeting

JULY

July 11: 7:30 pm General meeting

July 13-15: Baptiste 63 & Logan Creek 62 (Ralph Hopkins 253-8276)*

July 19-22: Rebecca Farm (Dan Oursland 752-3040)

July 25: 7:30 pm Board meeting

July 28: Heritage Days Parade in Columbia Falls (Keni Hopkins 253-4673)

AUGUST

Aug 10-12: Challenge Cabin, trail clearing, multiple trails (Rick Maedje 892-0819)*

Aug 14: 7:30 pm General meeting

Aug 17: Northwest Montana Fair parade - Kalispell (Keni Hopkins 253-4673)

Aug 25-26: Tuchuck trailhead, multiple trails (Steve Barker 270-5433)*

Aug 28: Board meeting

*Opportunity for camp out, potluck depending on interest

NOTE: Weed seed free hay and feed is mandatory at all Forest Service trailheads.



Due to the late snowpack melt this spring some of our projects may have to be postponed or rescheduled. We will do our best to maintain and update this schedule. Please go to <http://www.bchmt.org/flatbch/projectsevents-calendar.html> to check for updates.

Please bring your ideas on ways to encourage and to build up our support for the BCH family at these projects.

Welcome New Members!

Please welcome new members: John and Lynn Andenoro, Michael and Dawn Brennan, Doug and Cindy Coats, Madison Deitz, Troy Gray and Crystal Ferguson, Grete Gansauer, Ron Hauf, Danna James, Thomas and Annette Leverington, Stephen and Carolyn Milheim, Dave Owen, Charline Payne, Jessica Shaw, Steve and Lisa Smith, and Kevin and Elizabeth Ulrichsen.

NOTE: This will be your last newsletter unless you renew for 2018. Join up!

Back Country Horsemen
of the Flathead
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President's Message *continued from pg. 1*

at Spotted Bear. June is off to a great start with a packing class at FVCC which the BCHF chapter supports with scholarships.

We have an advertising chairperson who has some very good ideas. The chairperson for Projects and the Forestry Expo are in place. We have a chairperson to start researching how to educate and help the community to understand who we are and why we do what we do. You will be seeing their names when they write their news articles.



Thanks everyone for stepping up.

A service organization is not all work, we do have fun. BCHF is looking forward to a very productive and fun year. Thank you for letting me serve as your President. Hope to see new and more faces at the clinics, projects, and on the trail working and playing.

Regards,
 Ed Langlois

How to Weigh Your Horse

Heart girth (inches) X Heart girth (inches) X Body length (inches) divided by 330 = weight (pounds).



From Bob Hoverson's "Mule Packing-Decker Style" DVD.

Become a member in 2018 !!!

Dues are \$45 per year for a family, or \$35 per year for single membership. This price includes all newsletters - local, state and national. Please fill in this form and mail it to BCH of the Flathead, P. O. Box 1192, Columbia Falls, MT 59912.

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (very important) _____

E-mail: _____

_____ \$45 Family (# in family _____) _____ \$35 Single

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

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