

# BACKCOUNTRY HOOFBEATS

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[www.bchmt.org/flatbch/](http://www.bchmt.org/flatbch/)

 BackCountry Horsemen Flathead

## *Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead's 2019 Accomplishments*

Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead (BCHF) completed 35 projects for a whopping value of \$162,992 this field season! We want to thank all the officers, directors and members of our chapter who participated in another amazing year.

Our training sessions started in early spring with first aid, defensive horse safety and saw training. One of the highlights this spring was our packing clinic at the Saddle Club in Columbia Falls. Demonstrations were given by Forest Service packers Guy, Abby, Mike and Madeline and their horses and mules. Local horsemen, outfitters and hunters enjoyed their presentations and we are hoping for an even bigger crowd next spring.

We hit the trails on Memorial Day with our annual project at Meadow Creek. Twenty-four people participated in clearing trails, cleaning up the campground and enjoying the fellowship of our members and other horse enthusiasts. A total of 135 miles were cleared throughout the summer and 984 on the ground volunteer hours of work donated to our public land managers. Our 147 four-legged friends provided 207 workdays throughout the season.

BCHF members volunteer each year at The Event at Rebecca Farm. This year we served as jump judges and score runners. We also had a beautiful educational booth in the big tent. Our education included leave-no-trace camping and stock techniques, weed awareness, and back country travel and packing techniques. BCHF participated in eight

events around the valley including Earth Day, Columbia Falls Community Market, WildFest, and the Heritage Days and Northwest Montana Fair Parades.

Youth education was another highlight of the 2019 season and BCHF totaled 1,113 hours of education this season. We participated in Forestry Expo which educates

approximately 1,400 local fifth graders and gave packing classes at four youth summer camps around western Montana. The 65 kids ranged in age from 10 to eighteen, and wow, do kids ever love

horses! We hope to expand our youth activities next year. It is very rewarding to see young people enjoying the outdoors and learning about Montana's back country opportunities.

We all have different talents and we welcome anyone who would like to come and help us with our busy program and furthering the purposes of our service organization.



## **BCHF Officers & Directors**

President— Ed Langlois  
Vice President— Jim Thramer  
Treasurer— Deborah Schatz  
Secretary— Ralph Hopkins  
State Directors— Ralph Hopkins and Greg Schatz  
Alternate State Director—Jim Thramer  
Board of Directors—  
Jenny Abelle      Steve Barker      Keni Hopkins  
John Andenoro    Mark Brust      Dan Oursland  
Verna Barker      June Burgau      Jerome Val Rios  
Calling Committee— Sandy Bradford  
Email Committee—Ralph Hopkins  
Historian—Vacant  
Hospitality Chair—Ed Langlois  
Issues Committee—Mark Brust, Deborah Schatz & Greg Schatz  
Leave-No-Trace Chair—June Burgau  
Library—Ed Langlois  
Membership Chair—Keni Hopkins  
Newsletter Committee—Jim Thramer, Editor, Keni Hopkins,  
Deborah Schatz & Chris Jolly  
On-Time Drawings/Prizes— Vacant  
Parliamentarian—Mark Brust  
Publicity Chair—Jim Thramer  
Safety/Training Coordinator—Gary Dalen  
Trails Project Coordinator—Dan Oursland  
Website/Facebook—Deborah Schatz/Ralph Hopkins

### THE PURPOSE OF BCH

The Back Country Horsemen is organized to:

- a) Perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of horses in the back country.
- b) Assist government agencies in maintenance and management of the resource.
- c) 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**

GENERAL meetings are held on the SECOND Tuesday of each month. 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.

### Dec

10th — General Meeting      17th — Board Meeting

### Jan 2020

14th — General Meeting      28th — Board Meeting

### Feb

11th — General Meeting      25th — 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**

Going back to the formation of the Back Country Horsemen organization to the present, our chapter has had its time in the spotlight, mostly positive but sometimes negative. By far the great news is that the spotlight on the positive shines as a much bigger and brighter light through these years on what the chapter has accomplished and will continue to accomplish in the future, in respect to its purpose.

In the past two years as president, sometimes on a monthly basis, the accomplishments might not seem that significant. However, when you see the year's totals on paper, you are overwhelmed by how much has been done and the time and dedication it took from the membership to do so. That signals to me that overall the chapter is strong and cohesive and will continue to be in the future.

As president for the last two years I did not see my position as one to steer the chapter in a direction to benefit my own personal belief of what the chapter's purpose is, but to let individual ideas be discussed and emerge so as to fulfill the chapter's purpose. I saw this happen on a regular basis.

The chapter's stated purpose is quite an interesting statement that I believe should be read and discussed as there are so many ways to accomplish the purpose of the organization. Again, I will say that I believe the BCHF is a strong and cohesive chapter filled with motivated, dedicated members, is fulfilling its purpose, and will continue to do so into the future. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have served as your president.

Regards,  
Ed



Ed leading 5 mules out of the Danaher after his son, David, had a successful Moose hunt in October.



## *Packing Girls In* by Deborah Schatz

During the Fourth of July holiday, nine BCHF members packed in a group of girls volunteering with the Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation. Their destination was the beautiful meadow called Pretty Prairie in the Bob. Here the girls cleared trail and learned about the values of Wilderness.



BCHF packers included (left to right): Amanda DeTour, Kerris Matheney, Keni Hopkins, June Burgau, Deb Schatz, Jen Abell, and Dawn Brennan. Photo by Meg Killen, BMWF leader.

## *Upcoming Education Opportunities*

### **Horse Packing and Wildlands Camping I**

FVCC Continuing Education

Learn horse packing and “Leave No Trace” backcountry camping skills using traditional mule and modern equipment in this hands-on class.

Thursdays February 13 through March 19, 2020 6-9 PM

We will meet at Gateway Community Center

### **Horse Packing II**

Spend the day learning hands on packing with live horses and mules.

You must have successfully completed Horse Packing I to participate.

Saturday April 4, 2020, 9-5

For more information contact

Greg Schatz at 261.5450

or [gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com](mailto:gregschatzbuilder@gmail.com)

[www.fvcc.edu/continuing-education](http://www.fvcc.edu/continuing-education)

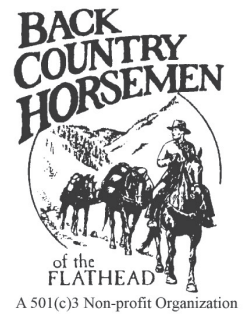






## Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead Annual Report 2019

**\$162,992 =  
value of BCHF's  
volunteer services  
in 2019**



### 135 miles of trail cleared

Wilderness trail miles cleared: 61  
Non-Wilderness trail miles cleared: 74

### 984 on-the-ground volunteer hours

Trail clearing and packing support with partner groups, including 10 different trail projects on 4 ranger districts within the Forest Service.

### 1113 education hours

### 65 youth, 4 summer camps

Public education including Flathead Valley Community College Wildlands Packing and Camping class, four youth summer camps, and Leave No Trace trainings.

### 747 outreach hours

Community events, educational booths and displays, public meetings, and parades. Members also volunteer as jump judges during The Event at Rebecca Farm.

### 171 administrative hours

Planning and organizing projects and events, grant applications, training, record keeping, state board meetings

### 105 members completed 35 projects

### 147 horses and mules worked 207 days

### 19,024 miles traveled with trucks and trailers

### income

Donations 84%  
Dividends 9%  
Dues 7%

### expenses

On the Ground Projects 47%  
Administrative 17%  
Scholarships and Community Education 15%  
Insurance 10%  
Training 6%  
Expansion 5%

### investments

BCHF is a member of the Whitefish Community Foundation, building connections with charitable organizations and growing our funds for our future.

Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead  
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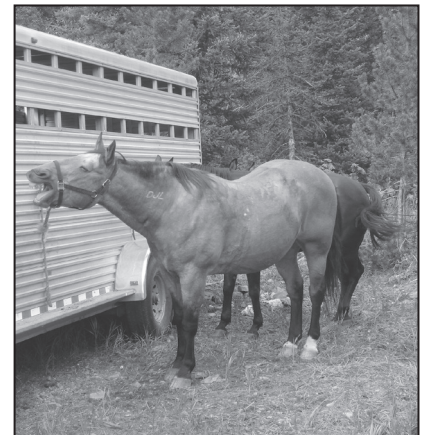


## *Wendy's Two Cents* by Wendy the Horse (and Dan Oursland)

All went well at Challenge, the feed was excellent (weed free), the company was great (a little kicky at times) and a lot of hard work by BCHF was enjoyed by us all.

We were challenged to pack our 2 legged friends (around 70) up mountains, across rivers and saw many very beautiful places that we had never seen before. My 2 legged friends were challenged to be good stewards of our land, to help our neighbors in need and learned some new ideas on how to be better Back Country Horsemen. They also learned new ways to encourage others to step out and to be a part of our mission to make our Trails and our Back Country better for the next person and the next generation.

Happy Trails



Photos from Challenge at Challenge 2019



## *Welcome New and Returning Members!*

Please welcome new members: Amanda DeTour, Joshua Keene and Jennifer Durban, Dawn Emerson, Philip Gillaspie, Christopher and Misty Hayes, Bart Healy, Cathy Kraft, Bill and Mary Lepper, Mike and Kay Lovoll, William Love, Kerris Matheny, Steven Reiniger, Kristin Robertson, Lela Sistok, Heidi Owen and Scott Snelson and Becki Torbergson.

We also welcome back returning members Bonnie Streeter and Vernon Kiser.

**Back Country Horsemen**  
*of the Flathead*  
 P.O. Box 1192  
 Columbia Falls, Montana 59912  
 A 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization

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***BCH Successful with Rac Grants***

The Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead have been awarded two more RAC Grants \$18,968.00 for 2018 and \$27,243.00 for 2017. The grants are to rebuild trailheads including Logan- Baptiste, Devil’s Creek, Geifer Creek, Granite Creek, Morrison Creek and Tuchuck. Depending on the trailhead we’ll be doing everything from a total rebuild to installing a few signs.

BCHF has been very successful in procuring RAC grants, we have received a total of \$156,000 since 2003. We have used this money for anything from trailhead projects to large scale trail projects.

In 2000 congress passed the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self- Determination Act of 2000” which established the Resource Advisory Committees (RAC). The money received by Flathead County is in lieu of property taxes from the federal government. 15%- 20% of the money has to be used for natural resource projects on either federal or county land. Flathead County uses the remaining money to help fund schools and roads.

We will be working out the details of the trailhead projects after the first of the year. Please watch for opportunities to come and participate in these projects.



***Become a member in 2020 !!!***

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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