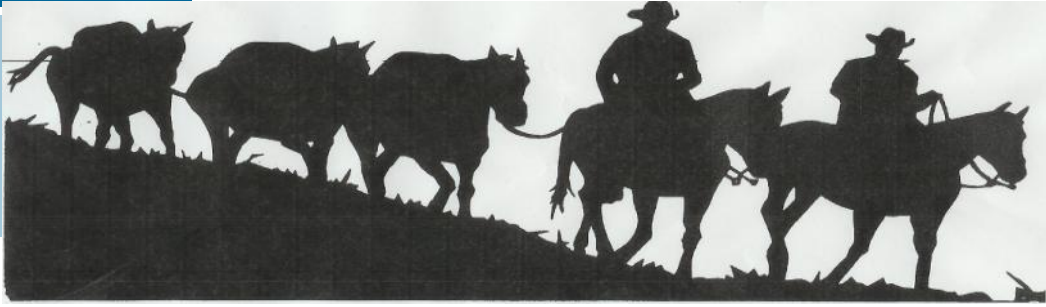


AUGUST 2022

Last Chance Back Country
Horsemen

HORSE TRACKS



LAST CHANCE BCH AUGUST 3rd. MEETING



Duck Creek Road to Stove Camp Trailhead

MEETING AUGUST 3rd.

At Montana Wild 7:00 PM

***This is an important meeting so be
sure to attend***

Letter from Tony

Hello everyone,

Hope your summer is going well and not as quickly as mine. The time has arrived for us to try and pull off our large plank packing project for the Woods Creek Fire. The MCC crew is waiting on deck for us to get supplies in so it would be really nice to be able to pull this off in one busy weekend. To be able to do that I would like to ask if we could get as many hands-on deck as possible.

We really need commitments for the following:

- 1: Food! The Club will provide food so we could really use several people to plan, buy and prepare food for the weekend.
- 2: Packers – that can pack lumber bunks or other ways of packing planks, that know-how and animals that can pack lumber – 12 would be ideal.
3. Outriders that can adjust loads. Lumber bunks can be tricky
4. 2 packers that can haul tools and misc. supplies to bridge sites (if needed).
5. 4-6 people at bridge drop off sites that can hold animals and unload bridge planks, as there is no tie up areas.
6. 4 people that can bundle and weigh loads at camp
7. 4 people to help load animals at camp
8. Someone with a flat trailer to haul:
 - a. porta potty,
 - b. 3 stock tanks
 - c. All food and water

The Forest Service will haul water for stock and all bridge planks, tools & misc. And the Club can reimburse everyone for mileage so please keep track!

Please come to the meeting August 3 at 7:00 P.M. at MT Wild so we can finish planning!

-Tony



The Woods Creek Bridge Pack is a big pack for the LC BCH and is going to require lots of members and lots of work to pull this off. There are 10 bridges to be replaced, the work is going to be done by the MCC crew. We have agreed to pack the bridge planks to these sites. This project not only needs packers but people need to help with loading, unloading and fixing meals, so everyone needs to step up if you can.

There are 300-4 foot planks to be packed roughly 6+ miles, which will require lots of packing.

The date set for this is August 12,13 & 14. Details will depend on what we come up with for commitments from the members.

This project is funded by a Rac Grant and will be our only source of income for this year. The deadline to complete this project is Sept. 1 of this year.

Summer time is a busy time for all so be sure to come to the meeting so details can be finalized and Tony and Neil have a good idea what we can do as a club.



[July 2022, Packing in the Bob, by Fred Benson](#)

Second weekend of July. The first trip Nolan Wanner and I did was a supposed 15 mile, one-way recon trip just to say we had been there and seen where the camp was supposed to be for the August 2 thru August 10 WCC trail crew. We left from Indian Meadows TH.

One wrong turn caused us to catch up to a couple FS packers and ride past a FS trail crew. They put us on the right track. We added an extra mile or two to the trip and saw some country we probably would not have seen otherwise.



Nolan taking his turn leading our small group.



We even got into clearing some trail on the way back. We had just been here the day before. Go prepared.

My GPS said 27.8 miles round trip.

Third weekend in July.

Terry Hutton and Sherri Lionberger helped me pack out five women with the Sierra Women's Group and one female BMWF crew leader.

We left the North Fork of the Blackfoot TH mid – morning Thursday. It was impressive to have 12 animals lined out. Each of us had three pack animals. We had plenty of pack stock. It is tough to leave one home when you only need three. They all need and got more experience.

Riding along the North Fork of the Blackfoot River is impressive, seeing the small white water waves and hearing the water, roar for lack of a better term.

We stopped for lunch at the North Fork Cabin after crossing the wooden bridge just before the cabin.



Eight of the 12 animals tied to the hitching rails.

When we arrived at the BMWF camp, the crew was out working. We used the time to unsaddle the animals, put up electric fence around very little grass and put our tents up. Lauren, crew leader made supper, which was very good. We needed to build a small fire to make coffee; they ran out of gas for the stove. As we gathered our animals, saddled them as some of the crew finished a quick breakfast and started walking out. A couple of the BMWF trail crew stayed around as we finished packing, they left to walk out and Terry, Sherri and I loaded the animals for the trip out. A couple of the loads were odd or appeared to be, kitchen box and cooler. Terry followed for a while, just to help watch the load. Terry, Sherri and I did a good job balancing all the loads.



Socks is Miss Reliable.



This is how we packed the six foot cross cut saw out along with their tools.

Terry and Sherri headed home. I waited at the trailhead to watch the trail crew gear until the group walked out, back to their cars. We had passed them on the trail earlier. It was a fun trip. Pretty much an uneventful trip as we followed Sherri crossing the river several times to get to the camp. There is more to this story. Round trip about 19 miles. July 20, Terry H and I tagged along with Tony Smith and Bob Tomaskie as they took a trail crew into an impromptu spot because the trail to the original location was under water. We left from Mortimer TH and rode along the Gibson Reservoir, about 7 miles. Tony and Bob arranged for a different location with the BMWF trail crew. This is their story and I will let them tell it. I did ride my mule Socks, so I could keep up with the all mule string. Great scenery and just over 21 miles round trip that day. I had a fun July.

REFRIGERATOR CANYON PACK by Neil Horne

On July 5th. Russ Wattnem, Kevin Horn, Hank Flatow, Mark Turner, Darlene and I met up with the MCC crew at Refrigerator Canyon Trailhead. We had 7 pack mules loaded with tools, food, water and duffle. We packed them in 5 miles unloaded, had lunch, wished them the best and returned to our trucks. Plans were made for us to return 9 days later to haul the MCC crew back to the trailhead.

Russ, Kevin, Gary Wiles, Darlene and I returned with 5 pack mules and a special treat for all. It's hard to believe but my lovely bride decided to pack ice cream for a treat. It's 85 degrees and 5 miles in. She had it well packed and although a little soft you still had to eat it with a spoon. Treats over and much appreciated, we packed up and headed home.



This crew of 5 spent 18 days working on this trail. The first 4 miles clearing and doing tread work. From the saddle where they camped to just about Bear Prairie they cleared 297 trees with 1 cross cut and 2 Katana Boys saws. I would say a well deserved THANK YOU !!!

