

MISSION VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

Spring 2014



Thank you!!!!

2014 Officers and Board Members



Notes from Your MVBCCH President Scott Hopper

First off, thank you for electing me President.

We are off to another busy year. The weekends are filling up with exciting trail

cleanings, pack clinics, weekend trail rides and good old fashioned weekend camping. There will certainly be something for everyone.

A great start to the summer is our annual Steak Ride. This is an not to be missed event. Last year we sold out. Hopefully everyone is planning on attending and helping out. The way this spring is springing we may have to use bobsleds! Instead of horses. © Join us as we make plans for the ride. We meet just before the monthly General Meetings.

We have dates set for the trail cleanings. Dave Crawford is organizing chain saw and horse safety programs. The programs are for the benefit of everyone. Even if you are an old hand at clearing trail a refresher for safety is a good idea. Plan to be there and 'Get Saftyed Up.' Please check the calendar included in this newsletter. I would like to encourage everyone to come to the monthly meetings, to fill up your day planner and partake in some good old Mission Valley BCH bs!

Thank you, Scott

L-R, Back Row: David Crawford, Mac Long, Charlie Hahn, Louie Polinsky, Scott Kiser, Pete Weimer

Middle Row: Bill Dupuis, Paula Weaver, Dennese Schauss, Connie Plaissy, Scott Hopper, Laurie Crawford

Seated: Carol McCrum, Laura Nelson, Marie Hall, Hugh and Sue Henderson.



Scott Hopper accepts the gavel from previous president Laurie Crawford.

Thank you Laurie for your hard work and welcome aboard Scott.

MISSION STATEMENT OF MISSION VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in Montana's road less backcountry and
- to assist the various government agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources and
- to educate, encourage and solicit active participation by various members of the general public in the wise and sustainable use of horses and people, commensurate with our heritage and backcountry's resources, and
- to work with and abide by Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal regulations and permits.

"Quoted from the MVBCCH Club By-Laws, adopted 01/31/05"

GENERAL MEETING NOTES

MARCH 4-2014

Meeting Called to order by Scott Hopper – President
Secretaries Report – Laura Nelson

No Corrections or additions

Motion to accept minutes as sent out made by Charley Hahn, 2nd by Bill Dupuis

Motion accepted & passed

Treasures Report – Paula Weaver

As of 2/28/14 we have a balance of \$9,932.96 + 0.10 interest = \$9,933.06

Motion to accept treasures report as read made by Sherri Hopper, 2nd by Susan Hahn. Motion accepted & passed.

Steak Ride – Scott Kiser. Scott brought in Posters and Tickets. Posters can be put up anywhere - grab one if you want to put it up someplace. Dennese Schauss has tickets. Get them from her if you want to sell tickets. See Dennese if you want to buy tickets. Tickets are going fast.

State Convention – At state we will be looking at two Resolutions that will be submitted. They include the Limited Entryway Resolution and the Proposed Youth Plan

Limited Entryway Resolution – Scott Kiser. Put in by the Beartooth BCH Chapter. Trailhead Entryways restricting Motorized vehicles are also limiting pack-stock as well due to the way in which they are constructed. Limited Entryway Resolution – would like to promote a new type of trailhead entry restricting motorized vehicles but allowing pack-stock through safely. Scott showed some pictures of proposed entryways. **The resolution is asking the Forest Service for these modification and the State BCH chapters for their support & help in implementing these entryway modifications. As a club: how do we want to vote MVBCH will vote to support this resolution.**

Proposed Youth Program Resolution – David Crawford
This Resolution was presented by the Flathead Chapter and its subject is to propose a Youth Program. Would like to use the State BCH basically as a clearing house whereas every time a chapter needs information they can go to the state and get that information without having to re-invent the wheel. The goal is to get people interested and educated in the ways/art of getting into the Backcountry safely & efficiently. Target group is 30 years old and under. There was much discussion on this, as we as a club have tried to get a wide range of people of all ages to join. As a club how do we want to vote? **Charley Hahn made a motion to accept the resolution as written but be in a position to bring up the ideas we have discussed (expense of keeping stock, not restricting age, etc.) Laurie Crawford 2nd the motion . Motion passed – MVBCH will support the resolution as Charley proposed.**

Old Business:

Trail Cleaning equipment Repairs: Reset for Saturday, March 8th at 10:00am at the Crawford residence. Bring your own Lunch.

Trailer Backing – has been rescheduled for Saturday March 22nd at the Jore Parking lot. We will be starting at 10:00am. We are also going to include horse loading & unloading as well. Bring something to clean up the horse apple deposits.

Hay Ride – At LaRue Melton's place. Scheduled for Saturday March 29th. Hook up is at 10:00 am, the Ride starts at 11:00 am with a potluck to follow.

First Aid Classes – Charley Hahn is still trying to set something up with Dr. Righetti. Good show of hands for people wanting to attend. Will have to be according to his schedule. We will send out notification as soon as we find something out. St Joe's out of Polson will also offer a First Aid Class. Sometime the end of March, first part of April. Will need confirmation on dates for this.

Club Inventory: Asking that any members that have anything from records, office equipment, trail equipment, etc (anything that belongs to the club) to please let Laura Nelson know for inventory Purposes.

New Business:

Murdock's in Polson – contacted Dennese and introduced themselves. Will be more than happy to donate for Door Prizes, no cash, merchandise only. Looks like a tentative opening date will be toward the end of the month or the first part of April.

Trail Cleaning Equipment Trailer: The club has purchased a 6 X 12 cargo trailer from Express Auto out of Pablo. Paid \$3,095 – single axel, V-shaped front, Ramp-style back door, large side entry door. This trailer will house all of our trail cleaning equipment & gear. Will need to build some racks for it to maximize storage.

Cookie Monsters for the April General Meeting – Carol McCrum & Dennese Schauss.

50/50 drawing won by Pete Weimer.

Membership Drawing won by Scott Hopper - \$5.00

Tonight's Program was the Year End Review – Presented by our One & Only Fabulous Bonnie Kiser!!!!!!! Bonnie did a wonderful job! Seeing the review is a boost to the heart & soul. No Wonder we belong to the Club! Thank You Bonnie!

Sherri Hopper made the motion to adjourn, 2nd by Scott Kiser, Meeting adjourned.

Laura Nelson – Secretary

2014 Officers, Board and Chairpersons

Officers

President:	Scott Hopper	745-0012
Vice-President:	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
Secretary:	Laura Nelson	544-5103
Treasurer:	Paula Weaver	883-3092
State Board:	David Crawford	675-4293
	Scott Kiser	883-2186
Alt:	Connie Plaissay	644-5001
National Director for the State:	David Crawford	675-4293

MVBCH Board of Directors

2 Year	Bill Dupuis	675-3549
2 Year	Marie Hall	676-0231
2 Year	Mac Long	670-9244
2 Year	Louis Polinsky	544-5103
2 Year	Connie Plaissay	644-5001
1 Year	Charley Hahn	883-6750
1 Year	Hugh Henderson	883-2748
1 Year	Sue Henderson	883-2748
1 Year	Carol McCrum	676-8114
1 Year	Pete Weimer	675-8883

Committee / Event Chairpersons

Audit Committee:	Charley Hahn	883-6750
	Scott Kiser	883-2186
Day Rides:	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
	Sherry Hopper	745-0012
	Laura Nelson	544-5103
Hwy Clean-Up:	Susan & Charlie Hahn	883-6750
Issues :	David Crawford	675-4293
	Scott Kiser	883-2186
	Connie Plaissay	644-5001
Work Projects:	David Crawford	675-4293
	Scott Hopper	745-0012
	Laura Nelson	544-5103
Leave No Trace:	David Crawford	675-4293
	Scott Kiser	883-2186
Membership:	Marie Hall	676-0231
Contact Help	Laurie Crawford	675-4293
	Carol McCrum	676-8114
Newsletter:	Connie Plaissay	644-5001
	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
	Bonnie Kiser	883-2186
Publicity:	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
Education & Safety:	All Board Members	
Steak Ride: 2014	Scott Hopper	745-0012
	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
Photo Album:	???	

More information on the web at www.bchmt.org

What have we been up to???



Saw Box Maintenance March 8-2014

After two previous attempts to repair & maintain the club saw boxes we were finally able to get together Saturday March 8th at David & Laurie Crawford residence. Yes the third time is a charm! The boxes were examined in detail by Larry Ruffato, Louis Polinsky, Pete Weimer, Bill Dupuis, David Crawford, and Carl Schauss. They put their heads together and set about doing the repairs and modifying the boxes ensuring that the saw handles weren't hanging down to low, gas cans & oil bottles had their own compartments, and miscellaneous items could be secured and stored safely. They all agree that the boxes are now ready for another season of trail cleaning!

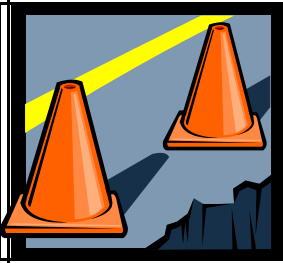
Carl Schauss setting the boxes last fall.

Big thanks to you guys for all of your backbreaking hard work .

Submitted by Laura Nelson

Trailer Backing & Horse Loading & Unloading

March 22-2014



Saturday, March 22 was a good day for Trailer Backing! No Wind and yes you have it **SUNSHINE!** Oh what happened to the horse loading & unloading? We didn't have any horses! We had two outfits there, one belong to Laura Nelson and the other to Bill & Paula Weaver. The lucky participants for this event were Scott Hopper, Bill Dupuis, Larry Ruffatto & Carol McCrum, Bill & Paula Weaver, Susan & Charley Hahn, David Crawford, Carl & Dennese Schauss, Laura Nelson & Louis Polinsky.

OK down to the nuts and bolts of the whole nine yards. We set up cones – yes little orange pointy highway cones. We did get artistic and put a sweeping curve in the cone course – that took some thought! Then we proceeded to set barrels at the end of the cones. Here we had some issues – couldn't figure out what clown to put in the barrels. Another problem with that was they kept going back to the size of the clown! What the Hay! Yes we had to move off that subject before someone got stuffed! The Goal – No

matter what, keep the outfit between the cones! And we did.

Ladies – one and all – you did a fantastic job! In fact we did so good, the guys wouldn't even attempt to give it a try. Yes, we out backed them hands down! Not to

say they didn't do anything – they did stand behind the blue barrels guiding us in with words of endearment & encouragement and of course the positive hand gestures. Needless to say – Every gal there successfully backed a trailer and we had a lot of fun doing so!



Laura Nelson offered her truck and trailer.



Bill Dupuis, Louie Polinsky, Susan Hahn and Larry Ruffatto.

Submitted by Laura Nelson



Get Well Soon!



March 25th long time friend and BCH member Carl Schauss underwent surgery on his back. He is recovering nicely at home. They expect 6 weeks of little of no weight lifting. The hard part is that Dennese has to keep him moving on a regular basis. The more that Carl takes good care to heal well the sooner we will have him back on his mule and into the woods.

Give them a call or stop by.

Dear Carl and Dennese, We wish you a speedy recovery.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

What's Next???



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula Celebrates 40 Years By Connie Basham

Following the vision of the original founding members from the Flathead Valley, it didn't take much convincing for a few Missoula horsemen and packers joining in kindred spirits, to form the second affiliated chapter of Back Country Horsemen in the early part of 1974. On April 4-6, 2014 Missoula Back Country Horseman will celebrate their 40th year of affiliation as part of the national organization of Back Country Horsemen of America.

BCH of Missoula will be sharing this celebration with the Wilderness Association for their 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The unification of these two chapters, later joined by members from Idaho, became the backbone of the Back Country Horsemen of America, as we know it today. Thanks to these charter members – Mike Chandler, Smoke Elser, Jim Brogger, Ray Roberts, Chuck Smith, John Lance and Fred Hartkorn, Missoula's chapter has grown to be one of the largest in the nation.

Developing a sustained working relationship with many agencies and organizations, Missoula Back Country Horsemen dealt with numerous issues over the decades which threatened stock use on public lands. Issues including trail and trailhead closures and abandonment; access problems; endangered species;

user permits; trail sharing disputes; and other land use concerns.

Working with local, state and federal agencies, BCH of Missoula members have spent countless hours, weeks, months and years pouring over forest management plans,

congressional issues, environmental matters and a host of other concerns facing stock use of the back country. Vast amounts of time and labor, both human and equine, have gone into building, clearing and maintaining trail systems, trail head facilities, camp facilities, bridges and buildings to protect and promote horse use in Montana. These efforts have benefited numerous trail users insuring our continued presence while remaining a valued advocate for Montana's wild land.

BCH of Missoula/Montana have always been actively involved in wilderness designation and preservation throughout the state. The Missoula chapter was one of many that helped stave off drilling for oil along the Rocky Mountain Front of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, preserving its untouched wildness forever.

With the objective of educating and encouraging sensible, responsible horse and stock use, Missoula BCH sponsored the Equine Expo for public involvement. They proudly and actively participate in the use and enjoyment of those successful efforts to uphold our horse heritage in Montana's back country.

The public is welcome to attend any or all of the convention.
Please contact: Connie Plaissay 644-5001, Scott Kiser 883-2186
and/or David or Laurie Crawford 675-4293 for details.



Dave Crawford and Scott Hopper ready to work.

April 12 Chain Saw Training and Certification

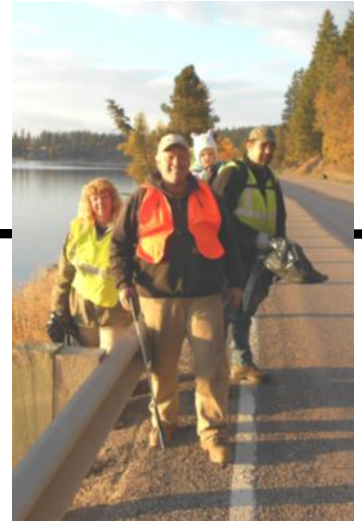
All day event beginning at 9am.

Please bring your own lunch.

David Crawford has organized a full day of activities to help us all become safer with power tools. The power of a chainsaw, the power of a strong back and the power of an educated mind.

The first part of the day will be at the Crawford's home for detail work. After lunch everyone will go to the Stoffel residence to try their hand at bringing down a tree.

Contact David to register: 675-4293



Sherry and Scott Hopper clean highway last fall with Sarah and Papa Scott Kiser.



Back: Bill D., Paula, Bill W., Sherry, Dennese, Sarah, Scott K, Carl & Scott H. Front: Hugh Cindy, Charlie Bonnie and Marie

April 17 Spring Highway Clean-Up

5:30pm Hwy #35 Mile Marker #12

Susan Hahn leads the crew as we gather to help make this world a cleaner place. Bring your walking shoes, work gloves and safety vest if you have one. Trash bags and GREAT cookies are provided. Dress for the weather, we pick up trash rain, snow or shine. Join the crew for dinner afterwards at one of the local eateries.

Contact Susan for details: 883-6750

April 19 Day Ride

Saturday Ride Begins at 11am.

Bring your Tribal Use Permit and a sack lunch. Welcome the Spring with Marie & Dan Hall along the Flathead River for a Day Ride. Ride begins at Sloan's Bridge. Please arrive early enough to leave with the group at 11am.

Contact Marie for details: 676-0231



Setting up the cook tent.

2013 - Hugh, Donna, Larry, Paula and Marie Getten er' Done.

The Steak Ride

May 3-4

Last year this traditional event sold out. Over 150 people enjoyed a beautiful spring ride and then some really fine food.

Make plans to come on up on Saturday and share a night around the campfire with good friends both old and new.



2013- Dennese serves up some fine grub with a smile.



2013

Plenty of room for campers or plan to pitch a tent. Bring the entire family.

Half price tickets for riders 12 years and under.
Ride and Steak Dinner Adult \$20 - Child \$10
Contact Marie-676-0231 or Dennese-883-5876

Get your tickets early.... Last year we sold out!!

Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen

33rd Annual

STEAK RIDE



May 4, 2014



Meuli Ranch ~ Dayton, Same Campsite - New Ride Route

Ride Gates Open 9 A.M. & Close at 11 A.M. Sharp!!

Minimum 3 Hour Ride — Set your Own Pace

Steaks to be served between 2:30-3:30 pm.

(We Ride Rain or Shine)

150 Tickets Available

**Adults-Still Only \$20
Children 12 & Under \$10**



NEW

Welcome Saturday Night Campers

Pot Luck Saturday Night at 6pm

Continental Breakfast Sunday Morning

50/50 Tickets & Door Prizes



For Ride Tickets or Details

Dennese Schauss: 883-5876

Marie Hall: 676-0231



7

Safety & Common Sense

Safety is a thought we give to just about everything we do, be it big or small. As a club, we are continuously addressing it when we do our rides, trail cleaning, rodeo parking and highway cleanup. Occasionally we need a tune-up on safety. That is not to say we are unsafe, but maybe we have become a little lax. Safety, to a degree, is also in the eye of the beholder. What one person considers safe another may deem unsafe. My personal feeling is that how much you know about something plays a role in how safe you feel about it.

So where is all of this going? As a Back Country Horseman chapter we deal with large animals that can cause a lot of damage. When trail cleaning we are performing a job that can have a high risk potential. We accept this because we enjoy doing the job, love being with our horses and doing all of this with friends. As a club we don't have a lot of "Safety" Classes. That does not mean we don't promote safety. When we have events such as Trailer Backing, The Day in the Woods, or a Pack-Clinic; not only are we teaching & improving on skills that we have or want to learn, but we are teaching it as safely as possible. We need to use **Common Sense** and not assume that everyone knows the same thing and at the same level. We encourage members to join in the events and encourage **Common Sense**. **Common Sense** in the fact that it isn't just you, but the people around you as well.



Scott Hopper workin' hard.

As a member of this club, I have seen how fast our schedule fills up. Right now we are booked all the way out through the middle of June. In all of that we have only one "Safety" class, Chain Saw Safety. The rest of the events are Trail Cleanings, a Pack-Clinic, and Rides. I would encourage members that participate in any of these events to voice their concerns regarding safety at any time.



David Crawford and Scott Hopper. Teamwork on the trail.

I would also encourage them to learn about it as well. Ask, that is what we are there for. We have a wide range of knowledge in our club, something to be proud of! One way or the other we will have or find the answer. We need to be able to communicate with each other on both the positive and the negative. Use Common Sense and think about your surroundings.

Unless you say something - we don't know. We don't bite, we may growl occasionally; but don't let that stop you! Safety does not have to be a structured class, it is a learned process that incorporates time, experience and common sense. Keep in mind that even the best trained people and animals have accidents; that is why they are called accidents.

Laura Nelson, MVBCH Secretary

Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen Ride Safety Rules

- Please be sure to sign the release waiver before mounting
- All riders are asked to be mounted & ready to ride at the scheduled departure time
- Ride leader (s) will be appointed for each ride, & will be responsible for planning the route and departure time
- Riders are asked to stay behind the leader(s) during the ride
- When (if) it is necessary to dismount, all riders must wait until everyone is mounted again before continuing the ride
- Neither Stallions or Dogs will be allowed on any MVBCH ride
- Keep adequate distance between riders while on the ride
- MVBCH does not permit smoking while riding
- Human & Equine First Aid Equipment will be with the Ride Leaders
- We ask that all riders be courteous when meeting others while riding
- Only one (1) rider per horse on any MVBCH sponsored ride
- It is the recommendation of the MVBCH Board of Directors that all persons under the age of 18 wear safety helmets

Revised 01/03/13

*Please remember that these ride rules are for your safety.
We hope to create a safe and fun environment for you and your horse.*



2014 MVBCH Activities



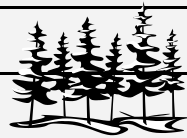
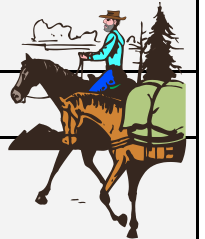
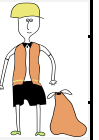
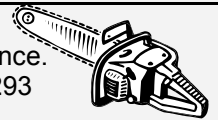
Dates and Times Subject to Change

Please Contact Persons Assigned When Making Plans!!!

Monthly meetings are always the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the VFW on Round Butte Rd.
Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm and are held at a board members home.



April 1	Tues.	7:30 PM	General Meeting Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd. Sgt. Chuck Lewis presents his Walk across the Nation for Veterans.
April 4-6	Fri. Sat. & Sun.		BCH State Convention-Missoula-see flyer in newsletter for details.
April 12	Sat. (all day)	9:00 AM	Saw Training/Certification-Crawford and Stoffel residence. Bring sack lunch. Contact Crawford for details-675-4293
April 13	Sun.	1:00 PM	Large trailer inventory & re-organization. Charlie Hahn's - Eli Gap Rd, Polson. 883-6750
April 15	Tues.	7:30 PM	Board Meeting
April 17	Thur.	5:30 PM	Hwy Clean - UP East Shore Hwy MM #12 Hahn's-883-6750
April 19	Sat.	11:00 AM	Day Ride - Sloan's Bridge - Contact Dan & Marie Hall - 676-0231 Bring a sack lunch and your current Tribal Use Permit.
April 27	Sun.	10:00 AM	Pre-Ride for Steak Ride. Meuli Ranch Contact Scott Hopper - 745-0012 Bring a sack lunch.
May 3	Sat.	1:00 PM	Set up for Steak Ride-Pot Luck to follow at 6pm
May 4	Sun.	9:00 AM	Steak Ride - Contact - Dennese Schauss 883-5876
May ?	TBA		Flathead River Honoring - Leave No Trace - Scott Kiser 883-2186
May 6	Tues.	7:30 PM	General Meeting - presentation by Kent and Charlene Krone
May 10	Sat.	8:00 AM	Clearing the River Trail - Bring a sack lunch. Contact Dave Crawford - 675-4293 or Scott Hopper 745-0012
May 20	Tues,	7:30 PM	Board Meeting -
May 24	Sat.	10:00 AM	Learn to Safely Pack Your Camp on a Horse. Buffalo Bridge Contact Carl Schauss 883-5876 or Scott Hopper 745-0012 Bring your horse, gear, lunch and good attitude. We will pack and then go for a ride.
May 31	Sat.	8:00 AM	Boyd Mountain Trail Clearing - Meet in Dixon. Bring a lunch and a strong back. Contact Dave Crawford - 675-4293 or Scott Hopper 745-0012
June 3	Tues.	7:30 PM	General Meeting
June 7 & 8	Weekend		More details later.
June 14	Sat.	8:00 AM	Flat Rock Trail Clearing, meet at Dixon. Bring a lunch and a strong back. Contact Dave Crawford - 675-4293 or Scott Hopper 745-0012
June 15	Sun.	9:00 AM ?	Father's Day Ride & Breakfast. 9:00 am Breakfast * 10AM Ride at Jette (details to be announced)



Yep.... This is an empty spot. Perhaps you have something that could have been here. Next time, let one of the newsletter crew know what you want to see in this blank spot.



TRIANGLE - S LEATHER SHOP

Need any repairs on your horse equipment or want something in leather for yourself?

I build/repair any horse tack; saddles, pack saddles, half-breeds, chinks, etc.

You dream it and I will build it!!

Don't forget your older tack.

It can be refurbished to good as new.

Contact Carl Schauss 883-5876 or 250-0567



Looking for a unique gift for your favorite Cowboy or Cowgirl.



Dennese Schauss is creating hand made "Old Fashioned" neck scarves in a variety of colors. Scarves come in 2 sizes:

Men's 36" x 36" \$25

Women's 28" x 30" \$20

Please contact Dennese for details:

883-5876 or 250-0567



Dear Members of MVBCH,

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of The Packstring. It is a privilege to help share what is going on. Enjoy the stories submitted by fellow members. If you have something chapter related that you would like to share, please let me know. The next issues will be coming out on these approximate dates, (Lord willing and the creek don't rise).

- 1) The **end of January**-calendar for MVBCH for the year ahead, Election Results, State Convention details
- 2) **April**-Work projects, convention reports, steak ride details, re-iterate the ride rules.
- 3) **End of June or July**-Summer rides, work projects
- 4) **Early October**-Recap of summer events, Fall projects, events, work project results.
- 5) **November**-Christmas, report for elections, year in review requests.

Please consider what you would like to see in this newsletter. I need your input to make this a representation for everyone.

Remember the classified ads. Want something in the next issue?? Send in the details

Editor: Connie Plaissy dicon4374@blackfoot.net 644-5001 or Bonnie Kiser bonniekiser@centurytel.net 883-2186

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
MISSION VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
P.O. BOX 604, RONAN, MT 59864



Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen
www.bchmt.org

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

If applying for family membership, please list children under 18:
_____ age _____
_____ age _____
_____ age _____

~~~~~ MEMBERSHIP DUES ~~~~~  
\_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$40 /YEAR or \_\_\_\_\_ SINGLE \$25 /YEAR  
*Membership is renewed on a calendar year basis expiring on December 31st.*

**PLEASE READ!**

Serious injury or even death can result from horse riding and related activities. There are risks inherent in equine activities, and these dangers, or conditions that are an integral part of equine activities include, but are to limited to;

- The propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm to, or death of person on or around the equine.
- The unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as medication, sound, sudden movement and unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals.
- Hazards, such as surface and subsurface ground conditions.
- Collisions with other equines or other objects.
- The potential of another participant to not maintain control over the equine, or to not act within the person's ability.

Participants in any activity shall act in a safe and responsible manner at all times to avoid injury to themselves and others, and shall be aware of the risks inherent in equine activities.

THE MISSION VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSMEN SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURY TO, OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT AS A RESULT OF THEIR VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN ANY SPONSORED ACTIVITY.

I certify that I have read and understand the above notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date Signature Date

Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen  
P.O. Box 604  
Ronan, MT 59864

## Spring Edition



Please Note: If your address is highlighted, this will be your last newsletter until you renew your membership.

Thank you for being a part of this dedicated group of people.  
2014 is our 33rd year as a chapter of the Back Country Horsemen.



**Interested in Horses in the Back Country??  
Join us at the Next General Meeting.**

General Meetings, 7:30 pm \* 1st Tuesday of the Month  
VFW Club in Ronan  
Contact: Dennese Schauss: 883-5876 Or Marie Hall: 676-0231