

MISSION VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN



February 2017



2017 Officers and Board Members

In order left to right: Mark Potter, Carol McCrum, Dennese Schauss, Mack Long, Dori Bruso, Sherry Hopper, Charley Hahn, Connie Long, Scott Hopper, Louis Polinsky, Scott Kiser, Jim Murphy, Bill Dupuis, Seated: Laura Nelson

Officers are elected for a one year term running from January to December. Board Members serve a two year term, and the State Board Representatives also serve a two year term that runs in conjunction with Convention.

Howdy All!

Letter From Our President

Do hope that everyone had a good Holiday Season. It is amazing at how 2016 just went flying by and we are rolling right on into 2017!

This is usually a time to reflect on the old year's accomplishments and figure out what the New Year will bring. 2016 was an awesome year. We have picked up some new members that are a great asset to the club, been successful in our pack clinics and training sessions and had a safe and fruitful trail season. In addition to our trail cleaning, we made the Donlan Corrals a more permanent structure and we have started working with the Forest Service on a horse camp facility near Thirteen Mile Bridge. Our Annual Steak ride was a sellout all the way around! The River Honoring gets more attention every year. There is even some talk of extending it. We have started gearing up for the BCHMT Convention that we will be hosting in Polson. We wound down the year with the Jette Poker Ride (attended by 4 hearty souls and their horses) and a Great Christmas party at the Hahn Residence. Yes it was a good year.

So what have we got going on in 2017? Right know the big push is for the 2017 BCHMT State Convention that our club is hosting in Polson, March 24-16, 2017. We have a great team headed by Connie Plaissay We are again offering a series of Pack Clinics (Carl Schauss), First Aid/CPR training (Connie Long), our regular trails to be cleaned and oh yeah – THE STEAK RIDE!!!! Always the first Sunday in May!! This year it will be held on May 7th. The River Honoring follows the Steak Ride and there are the monthly Fun Rides! Last but not least – trail cleaning funding to renew. It is shaping up to be a busy year!

What I enjoy about all of this is, the great group that I work and laugh with. You are a fantastic group of people and good friends. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with you, ride with you and of course, eat with you. So with that, let's make this a great year!!

See you on the trail, *Laura Nelson - Your 2017 MVBCH President and Trails and Work Project Coordinator*



Laura Nelson on the trail with Jazzy.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE 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 MVBCH Club By-Laws, adopted 01/31/05"

2017 Officers, Board and Chairpersons

Officers

President:	Laura Nelson	599-8809
Vice-President:	Scott Hopper	745-0012
Secretary:	Dorrie Bruso	802-923-6317
Treasurer:	Charley Hahn	270-9476
State Board 2YR	Connie Long	644-7889
State Board 2YR	Mack Long	644-7889
State Board Alt.	Scott Kiser	883-2186
Ntl. Ed. Chair	Mack Long	644-7889

MVBCH Board of Directors

Past President:	Dennese Schauss	883-5876
2 Year	Carol McCrum	676-8114
2 Year	Larry Ruffatto	676-8114
2 Year	Mark Potter	250-3965
2 Year	Scott Kiser	260-8398
2 Year	Sherri Hopper	745-0012
1 Year	Bill Dupuis	675-3549
1 Year	Connie Plaissay	644-5001
1 Year	Jim Murphy	676-3038
1 Year	Louis Polinsky	544-5103
1 Year	Marie Hall	676-0231

Committee / Event Chairpersons

Audit Committee:	Scott Hopper	745-0012
Day Rides:	Dorrie Bruso	802-923-6317
	Laura Nelson	599-8809
Education & Safety:	Connie Long	644-7889
	Scott Kiser	260-8398
Events Schedule:	Laura Nelson	599-8809
	Dorrie Bruso	802-923-6317
Hwy Clean-Up:	Carol McCrum	676-8114
Issues :	Mack Long	644-7889
	Laura Nelson	544-5103
Membership:	Marie Hall	676-0231
Newsletter/Website/Facebook:	Bonnie Kiser	883-2186
Nominating Comm:	Appointed for Election	
Programs:	Carol McCrum	676-8114
Publicity:	Paula Weaver	883-3092
River Honoring/LNT:	Scott Kiser	260-8398
Steak Ride:	Laura Nelson	599-8809
	Scott Kiser	260-8398
Photo Album:	???	???
Work Projects/Trails:	Laura Nelson	599-8809
	Scott Hopper	745-0012
2017 Convention:	Connie Plaissay	644-5001

More contact information on the web at <http://bchmt.org/wp/mission/>



Mountain Manners “Uphill users have the “right of way” until noon.”

As education chairman, I feel I have a responsibility to pass along educational information that I hope will be helpful to all of you. I like to teach and inform back country users and especially horse and mule

users about a variety of topics that are important to us all. Being courteous to others, protecting the resource you are recreating in, how to avoid negative encounters with wildlife and other trail users, human and horse safety, packing skills, managing stock in the back country along with Leave No Trace, just to name a few topics that I think are important for all of us.

To start this series of articles I wanted to bring in a little tradition and wisdom that Back Country Horsemen pulled together several years ago. During a recent conversation, the “Mountain Manners” booklet along with a discussion about the original sketches was brought up and the “light” flipped on in my head that this would be a great way to start a series of articles that folks would find entertaining and educational. Everyone should have a copy of this booklet. If you don’t and you would like one, please let me know.

When “Mountain Manners” concept first began by the Mission Valley chapter, because of space constraints there were manners drafted and sketches made that did not make the “cut” into the finished booklet. Even though some of the sketches and manners didn’t make the cut they are still very important and the sketches very entertaining. For the sake of history and to put a spotlight on the ones that didn’t make the booklet, I am going to put all of them in a series of articles for you to enjoy and hopefully be

reminded of some very important trail etiquette.

In the portfolio of sketches and original manners the manner listed as number one didn’t make it into the booklet, because it is listed as number one I am going to start the series with it. The first manner is, “Uphill users have the “right of way” until noon”. There are a few trail heads where this unwritten rule needs to be used and is very important for safety reasons. Owl Creek trail head at Holland Lake and Headquarters Pass are good examples. The reason for this “rule” is these trail heads go over mountain passes the first day and get very steep and narrow as you get towards the top to the pass. It is almost impossible if not downright dangerous to pass a pack string or a line of riders on these trails until you get to the top. Owl Creek is notorious for causing some very catastrophic wrecks and even deaths of pack animals.

Being the uphill traveler and having the right of way until noon, means you must be at the top by noon. Speaking from experience, pack strings are sometimes lined up and ready to start down right at noon. When they have waited to give the right of way for those coming up, starting down when it’s their turn, only to meet stragglers who are still heading up, it is frustrating and potentially dangerous.

So, to throw in some Leave No Trace principles, it is very important to plan ahead and prepare when you are using a trail head that has a steep incline that makes it difficult to meet or pass another party. Get started early enough in the morning to reach the top before your time runs out at high noon.

For some of you “old timers” this information may be redundant, but I feel it is always a good idea to refresh what we think we know and keep our minds thinking of ways to do things better and keep a stellar image in the public’s eye of horse users.

Submitted by Connie Long

Mission Valley BCH
General Meeting Minutes Feb. 7, 2017

- Meeting called to order by Laura Nelson- President
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Dan Hall
- New Members: 4 new members came to the meeting and joined the club
- **Secretaries Report:** Dorrie Bruso - Susan Hahn made the motion to accept the report as sent out, 2nd by Sherri Hopper. Motion accepted and passed.
- **Treasurers Report:** Charley Hahn - Reviewed Financial Statement:
 - General Checking Balance: \$10,319.41,
 - Convention Account Balance: \$3,109.09,
 - Convention Revenue: \$2,903,
 - Membership Revenue: \$500,
- 31 delegates and guests have paid for the convention, total of 136 delegates expected at convention.
- Charley proposed payment from general checking account of \$825 to pay for our delegates at the convention, \$47 to pay to Dorrie Bruso for envelopes and stamps, \$100 to rebuild our logo. Scott Kiser made motion to pay for these bills and to accept treasurer's report, 2nd by Louis Polinsky. Motion accepted and passed.
- Guest: Jack Stivers from Lake County Extension Office. Jack gave a presentation on a Holiday Lights Event that will occur December 2017 primarily at the fairgrounds and throughout different communities in Lake County. This event is being modeled after the Silverton, Oregon light program. This will involve the community and geared towards all ages while promoting family fun. They would like our club to get involved in this event and this could be a way to raise money for the club.
- **Convention Delegates:** Delegates are Mack Long, Connie Long, Laura Nelson, Louis Polinsky, Marie Hall, Sherri Hopper, Mark Potter, and Dorrie Bruso. Scott Kiser is the alternate.
- **Club Bowling:** Event was January 28, 2017 Had a good turnout with lots of fun!
- **Convention Slideshow:** Deborah and Greg Schatz will be presenting a slideshow Horse Packing in Mongolia at the state convention on Friday, March 24, 2017 - 7:30-8:30 pm in the KwaTaqNuk Resort Banquet Room. They are members of the Kalispell BCH and they went to Mongolia in 2016 to exchange packing techniques with local herders. This is a free presentation. For more information, contact Greg Schatz at gregschatbuilder@gmail.com or at 406-261-5450
- **Schedule of Events:** First Aid and CPR changed to 3/11/2017 at 10:00 AM at The Hall Residence
- **Ag Fair:** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM on 3/04/2017 MVBCH will have a table to publicize the convention, sell raffle tickets, run a video on convention, give info on club and survey of interest.
- **Defensive Horsemanship:** March 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM at The Hahn Residence.
- **MVBCH Website:** Bonnie Kiser has updated our website and it will have our schedule of events on there. To get to the website you need to go to www.bchmt.org then click on state chapters then click onto our chapter and the website comes up. There is lots of good info on the website along with the calendar of events, info on the convention, newsletter and minutes. Bonnie has done a nice job with this so take a look at it.
- **MVBCH Facebook Page:** If you are on facebook, like Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen and you will get updates on facebook. Bonnie Kiser has set this up and so far it looks like 24 people have liked this page. It is a good way to keep up to date on club activities also.
- **Trails:** Laura spoke with the Forest Service regarding saw certification. For re-certification you need 1/2 day field training. For full certification you need classroom and field training. On March 18, 2017 will be saw training in the classroom in Missoula at 9:00 AM. Location to be determined. On April 15, 2017 will be the saw training in the field which is a 1/2 day event. Location to be determined.
- **Spring Hay Ride:** This event has been cancelled due to lack of team of horses and wagon. Looking for ideas for events in April (maybe the snow will be gone by then!). If you have an idea for an event in April contact Laura Nelson or Dorrie Bruso. Their contact info on website.
- **President's Award Nominee:** This is given out to a person or a group of people recognizing and thanking them for their hard work and contribution to the chapter. This is presented at the state convention and each chapter nominates a person or a group of people. Scott Kiser nominated Charley Hahn, Connie Plaissay and Larry Ruffatto. Bonnie Kiser made motion to accept and 2nd by Scott Hopper. Motion accepted and passed. Bonnie Kiser will write up a letter and submit to the state president.
- **Post Office Box:** There are currently three keys to post office box, Charley Hahn has one key but do not know where the other two keys are. For \$22 we can re-key the box. Charley Hahn and Laura Nelson will each have a key. Susan Hahn made a motion to pay \$22 for the re-key, 2nd by Sherry Hopper. Motion accepted and passed.
- **Steak Ride:** Chair- Laura Nelson and Scott Kiser An Idaho couple have already reserved two tickets and they saw this on our website. Laura will ensure that website is current with price, ride rules, camping rules and directions.
- **State Convention Updates:**
 - Silent Auction: Need more items to be donated by members!!! This is very important because this makes money for our chapter to offset the cost of the convention. The venue is costing about \$14,000. All of the money made from the silent auction goes back into the chapter. Susan Hahn is in charge of the silent auction. Contact her if you have an item to donate.
 - Resolutions: 2 to be presented at state convention
 - Carol McCrum and Marie Hall will be selling raffle tickets at various businesses between the times of 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. They would like some volunteers to help them with this. If interested contact Carol or Marie.
 - Club vests and Shirts: If interested in ordering a vest or shirt contact Laura Nelson and deadline is 2/15.
- **Dennese Schauss** mentioned that Spot locators are currently on sale for 50% of normal price.
- **Membership Drawing:** Laura Nelson won \$5.
- **50/50 Raffle:** Scott Kiser won
- **Cookie Monsters:** Dennese Schauss, Sherry Hopper
- **General Meeting Program:** Mack and Connie Long did a slide presentation about care of stock in the backcountry. This was a great presentation with good information on caring for stock in the backcountry along with great photos. Mack and Connie have lots of experience packing in the backcountry. They emphasized on how to minimize the impact on the land with the stock and preparing for a pack trip, while ensuring the stock are well fed/watered.
- **Connie Long** made motion to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Louis Polinsky. Motion accepted and passed.

What have we been up to???

Public Lands Rally Helena January 30, 2017

On January 30-2017, three of the MVBCH members, Carol McCrum, Marie Hall, and Laura Nelson made plans to attend the rally for public lands in Helena Mt under the State Capitol Rotunda. With the changes brought on by the 2016 election, the threat of losing our public lands and our outdoor way of life is perhaps now greater than it's ever been.

This was our chance to let our elected officials know that our outdoor way of life defines who we are as Montanans and the got the message, loud and clear! The speakers were Mountaineering legend, Conrad Anker; Fly Fishing Host Guide and TV host Hillary Hutcheson, KC Walsh – CEO of Simms Fishing Company, and last but definitely not least Governor Bullock.

All of the speakers gave Fantastic speeches and Governor Bullock was really passionate. The crowd felt his passion as he said "Not on my Watch!" I'm sure they could hear our group of over 1000 strong down every hall in the Capitol Building.

Fellow BCH each and everyone of us, need to fight back! Send your message to our state and Federal elected officials: PUBLIC LANDS BELONG IN PUBLIC HANDS!

By Carol McCrum MVBCH



Marie Hall and Carol McCrum in Helena

Here's a link that tells a bit more about the rally. It also allows folks to sign an online petition if they want to. <http://mtgreatoutdoors.com/>

CLUB BOWLING EVENT JANUARY 28, 2017

So what do you do when there is snow on the ground and it is a bit cool outside? You bowl! Or in some cases, you attempt to bowl! That would be me. Saturday, several of us met at the Lucky Strikes Bowling Alley in Ronan for an afternoon of fun. Oh – it was fun! There were those of us who bowled and then those that sat

on the sidelines and offered advice. A lot of which just went over heads! Laughter and food off the menu! You didn't have to pay for the laughter and that came by the buckets.

It was good fun with strikes, gutter balls, and some awesome spares. It was good seeing Carl Schauss out there knocking them down and Pete Weimer showing us how it is done. Tanya Appelt, her mom Betty and her son were kind enough to let me bowl with them. Little did they know how good I was! Lets put it this way, I was politely told that the ball is supposed to go toward the pins, not away from them. No wonder Scott and Sherri Hopper didn't want me bowling with them! They kept saying the "the pins Laura, not the cook!" All in all, a good way to spend the day! By Laura Nelson



Carl Schauss heading for a strike!!!

Swan Lake Initiative December 8, 2016

December 8-2017 Dave Crawford, Don Clauson, Louis Polinsky and Laura Nelson made the trip to the Swan Lake Club House to find out what the Swan Lake Initiative is about. It is a proposal that would transfer only 'management' of about 60,000 acres of National Forest to the state of Montana.

This was a public hearing, so to speak, to gauge community support for the idea. Lake County Conservation District has been studying this for six years. Their proposal is to only manage the land under a 100 year lease. The land would remain the property of the federal government, but be managed by Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The DNRC would be tasked with the following: Wise management of all aspects of the resource, Reduce extreme fire hazard fuels, Sustainable management of a renewable Resource, Build in a drought tolerant forest, and generate income from a sustainable resource.

So how was this received? With a lot of skepticism. For having studied this for 6 years, there were a lot of unanswered questions. How would this affect access to the land? The answer given - that would not change, meaning that access would not follow the Montana state regulations, but would remain federal. All environmental concerns would be treated under federal guidelines. There was no clear answer to who would determine sustainable timber harvest or what the goal was for reducing wildfire fuel buildup.



There was a lot of emphasis on how this would benefit Lake County and what the revenue generated from the renewable resource would be used for. Even that was met with skepticism. The Lake County Conservation District would use the money for dust control, grants for voluntary improvement of old septic systems, and grants for irrigation and fertilization programs. It was also indicated that initially most of the money generated would stay in the Swan lake area and then eventually trickle over to this side of the mountains.

Jim Simpson of the Lake County Conservation district was adamant about this not being a part of, or a veiled attempt for privatizing Federal Lands. In conclusion, the proposal was not well received at this public meeting. There were a lot of unanswered questions and the sense of the Conservation district having no real discussion with other agencies that may be involved. By Laura Nelson

What's Next???



Don Clauson, Scott Hopper, Carl Schauss, Jim and Doria Murphy

2017 Trail Clearing Season is Just Around the Corner

Well Folks won't be long and we will be out cleaning those trails again. We have 3 trails we clean annually for the Forest Service, Superior District - **River Trail, Flat Rock Trail and Boyd Mountain Trail**. We typically try to knock those out in the spring before it gets to hot and before fire season. But then again we can't get into clean them until the snow melts and the trails dry up a little and we have all of our certifications in place.



Jim M. moving the gear along the trail.



Getting certified to use a chainsaw in the field.

Before we clean, we train! The requirements are Defensive Horsemanship (to buck brush and handle stock), Saw Certification and 1st Aid/CPR. All sawyers are required to have 1st Aid/CPR.

Defensive Horsemanship is scheduled for Saturday, March 4th at the Hahn Barn on Eli Gap Rd at 10:00am. You will need to bring a lunch and a chair. This is not an annual requirement, but is a good overall review. I do recommend attending this for that reason. This will be taught by Mack Long and Carl Schauss.



1st Aid/CPR is scheduled for Saturday, March 11 at the Hall Residence starting at 10:00am. This will be taught by Connie Long and is good for two years. All Sawyers that were certified in 2014 will need to take this training if they intend to cut this year. Any members wishing to participate in trail cleaning - especially being a sawyer - should take this class.



Carl S., Scott H, Larry R. and Jim M. clearing trail.

That being said - **Saw certification**. All of our current trail cleaning sawyers are good on their certification through this year. We do have a couple that are good for another year or two down the road. Last year the Forest Service implemented a new saw policy. I have been in touch with Tao (our Superior Forest Service Trainer) - as long as we do not let our current certifications lapse, all we need to do is a 1/2 day field certification. If you have not been certified, then you will need to go through the whole process of both class room and field certification. I am in the process of scheduling the field portion of the certification for any of the first three Saturdays in April. If you have new to our trail crew and need the classroom portion of this, please let me know, I will get it scheduled.



Defensive Horsemanship course, Mack and Carl show saddling.

Some general rules - you must be 18 years old to be a sawyer (we don't seem to have that problem!) and you must be 16 years old to buck brush and handle stock on trail cleaning events. Everyone on a trail cleaning is required to have a minimum training of Defensive Horsemanship. With that being said - **LETS GO CLEAN SOME TRAILS!!!**

Check the calendar for specific dates and times.....

Submitted by the Trail Master for MVBCH - Laura Nelson

April 20 Spring Highway Clean-Up **5:30pm Hwy #35 Mile Marker #12**

Carol McCrum 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 Carol for details: 676-676-8114





Attend the **2017** State Convention of the Montana Back Country Horsemen!
March 24, 25 & 26, 2017 in Polson, Montana

Our Mission - To Protect and Enjoy the Back Country
“Mission Impossible - NOT”

The Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen welcome you to the 2017 Convention to be held in the heart of the Mission Valley. On our agenda is an opportunity to learn from our political representatives about their vision for the future of Public Lands in the US. We hope to provide detailed information on how to contact our representatives to let them know our opinions.



KwaTaqNuk
RESORT CASINO
49708 US HWY 93 E
Polson, MT 59860
www.KwaTaqNuk.com
1-800-882-6363

The KwaTaqNuk Resort will host our event and are offering discounted room rates thru **February 24, 2017**. They will also provide our Saturday evening Banquet. You will have a choice of Sliced New Your Strip or Pecan Crusted Salmon and all the fixins.



There will be dancing to the music of Southern Comfort. A good ole' fashioned country band well known throughout the Mission Valley.



Plan to attend the presentation on Back Country First Aid for people and horses given Dr. Michael Righetti, Orthopedic Surgeon and fellow Back Country Horsemen.

The Downtown businesses welcome Back Country Horsemen members with a Main Street Stroll to be held on Friday, March 24th from 4-5:30pm. Many businesses will be offering appetizers and special discounts to members of the BCH. Visit our local restaurants and thank them for sponsoring our convention.



We have some fabulous raffle items, Connie and Mack Long donated a week-long pack trip for 2 into the Bob next summer, a combined package rifle and revolver and a \$500 gift card good in any Murdochs store. Contact Scott Kiser for more tickets: 406-260-8398. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.



Please bring an item representing your chapter and **valued at \$100** or more to be auctioned in the live auction. **Proceeds from these donated items will benefit the State of Montana BCH.** Our auctioneer this is year is Reed Tobol of Ronan. Many of you will recognize him as he travels Montana offering his skills as an auctioneer.

Tired of winter? Want a tropical getaway? Bring your bidding skills!!! During the live auction you might be the lucky winner of a weeks stay on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. Air fare not included in the package.



There will be an abundance of vendors to quench your shopping thirst. Do you know a vendor interested in participating? Please have them contact Connie Plaissay for details.

Please contact us if you have any questions either before or at convention. It is our **“MISSION”** to make YOUR convention SPECTACULAR!!!!

See you there,

The Mission Valley Back Country Horsemen
Connie Plaissay, Convention Committee Chairman
Phone (406) 240-8099



Montana State BCH Convention March 24, 25 & 26, 2017

Montana Back Country Horsemen State Convention
Drawing held March 26, 2017 - KwaTaqNuk Resort - Polson, MT



Raffle Tickets 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

Need not be present to win!!! Additional Tickets Contact:

Scott Kiser 406-260-8398

Please make checks payable to: Mission Valley BCH

**7 Day Guided Pack Trip
for 2 People into the "Bob"
Summer 2017**



Donated by Owners of Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters
Mack and Connie Long www.BobMarshallWildernessOutfitters.com

Rifle and Revolver Combination



Both guns contributed by the original owner.

Rifle: 44 Remington Magnum
Model 1894 with Micro Groove Barrel
Marlin Arms of North Haven, CT
~ And ~
Revolver: 44 Remington Magnum
Super Black Hawk
Strum Rager Co., South Port, CT



Donated by Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply
Good for purchases in your favorite Murdoch's store.

\$500 Gift Card Donated by Murdoch's Ranch and Home Supply.
Good for purchases in your favorite Murdoch's store.

WE could use YOUR help!!!!

*Please contact one of the committee chairs
and offer to give us a hand.*

Convention Chair – Connie Plaissay 644-5001

Publicity – Scott & Bonnie Kiser

Greeting/Registration – Susan Hahn (*Laura Nelson*)

Audio Visual – Scott Kiser & Connie Plaissay

Decorations – Suzan Hahn

Polson Main Street Stroll - Susan Hahn

Vendors – Dorrie Bruso

Silent Auction – Bonnie Kiser & Susan Hahn

Live Auction – Scott and Bonnie Kiser

& Charley Hahn

Raffle – Scott Kiser & Connie Plaissay

Finances – Charley Hahn

Security – Scott Kiser

Guest Speakers – Mack & Connie Long

Horse Packing in Mongolia

Stories and photos from the Darhad Valley

Friday, March 24, 2017

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Slide Show

Followed by Questions with the packers.
KwaTaqNuk Resort Banquet Room



*Join Deborah and Greg as they travel back
in time through the wild open land of the Darhad Valley,
with herders whose animals roam and graze the mythic
grassy steppes of the land of the eternal blue sky*

Be our guests, NO Charge for this informative presentation.

~ Photo Contest and Display ~

Photo Contest Categories

- **Animals:** Horses, Wildlife, Dogs, Cats, etc.
- **Scenery:** Mountains, Lakes, Stream, Trees, Prairie, etc.
- **People:** Friends, Kids of All Ages, Family, etc.
- **Back Country Horsemen at Work:** Work projects, Club projects, Activities or Events

Photo Contest Rules

Photos taken by amateur photographers & current BCH members only.

Photo size 5x7 or 8x10, must be mounted or matted. (no frames please).



Please place on the back of photo: Photographers BCH Chapter,
Photographers Name and Address.
Register your photo Friday evening or Saturday morning before 9:00 A.M.
Winning photos will be chosen by convention attendee votes.

Awards announced and presented on Sunday morning.

One over all favorite photo will be awarded "People's Choice" of the 2017 Convention.

Photos may be picked up Sunday morning.

Photo Contest contact:

Carol McCrum 406-676-8114



The public is welcome to attend any or all of the convention.

Dinner is by reservation only.

Please contact: Connie Plaissay 644-5001 or Bonnie Kiser 883-2186 for details.

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



36th Annual **STEAK RIDE**

Sunday, May 7th, 2017

Meuli Ranch ~ Dayton, Same Campsite - New Ride Route

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

Average 3 Hour Ride — Set your Own Pace

Steaks served 2:30-3:30pm ONLY - Bring your gear, we Ride Rain or Shine!



**Adults- \$25
Children 12 & Under \$10**

Saturday Night Campers are Welcome

Please call for details of camping with your horses.

No electric fences allowed

Pot Luck Saturday Night at 6pm

Continental Breakfast Sunday Morning

50/50 Tickets & Door Prizes

For Ride Tickets or Details

Marie Hall: 676-0231

Dennese Schauss: 883-5876

**Only 150 Tickets Available
Reserve your spot early!
Last year we sold out.**



2017 MVBCH Activities

General Meetings - 1st Tuesday & Board Meetings - 3rd Tuesday

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and are held at the VFW on Round Butte Rd. in Ronan, MT

Dates and Times Subject to Change.

Please Contact Persons Assigned When Making Plans!!!



Feb. 16	Thur.	6:30pm	Convention Meeting - Connie Plaissay Residence - 644-5001
Feb. 21	Tues.	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Ronan VFW Hall
Feb. 25	Sat.	10am (All Day)	Pack Clinic #1 - Open to the Public Hahn Barn - Eli Gap Rd, Polson - Bring a sack lunch. 883-6750
Mar. 4	Sat	10am (All Day)	Defensive Horsemanship - Necessary to participate in trail work. Hahn Barn - Eli Gap Rd, Polson - Bring a sack lunch. 883-6750
Mar. 4	Sat.	9am-3pm	MVBCH Booth at the Lake County Leader Ag Fair Ronan Community Center - Connie Plaissay 644-5001
Mar. 7	Tues.	7:30pm	General Meeting Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.
Mar. 11	Sat.	10am-4pm	1st Aide/CPR Course - Hall Residence - Sloan's Bridge Rd., Ronan Instructor-Connie Long: 644-7889 / Marie Hall: 676-0231
Mar. 18	Sat.	9am-5pm	Saw Training (Classroom Portion) Missoula (location To be Announced) Laura Nelson-599-8809
Mar. 18	Sat.	9am-5pm	Convention Meeting - Hahn Residence-Final preparation for Convention Connie Plaissay - 644-5001
Mar. 21	Tues.	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.
Mar. 24-26 Friday- Sunday			Montana State BCH Convention Hosted by Mission Valley BCH KwaTaqNuk Resort, Polson Connie Plaissay - 644-5001 Public is welcome to attend. Reservations required for the banquet on Saturday evening.
Apr. 4	Tues.	7:30pm	General Meeting Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.
Apr. 15	Sat.	1/2 Day	Saw Training in the field. Location to be announced. Laura Nelson - 599-8809
TBA	TBA	TBA	Monthly Club Ride - Suggestions for locations are welcome. Laura Nelson-599-8809 or Dorrie Bruso - 802-823-6317
Apr. 18	Tues.	7:30pm	Board Meeting - Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.
Apr. 20	Thur.	5:30pm	Hwy Clean - UP East Shore Hwy MM #12 Carol McCrum - 676-8114
Apr. 29	Sat.	10:00 AM	Pre-Ride Trail Investigation for Steak Ride. Meuli Ranch Bring a sack lunch. Contact Scott Hopper - 745-0012 or Scott Kiser - 260-8398
May 2	Tues.	7:30 PM	General Meeting Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.
May 6	Sat.	Noon	Set up for Steak Ride -Pot Luck to follow at 6pm Meuli Ranch, Proctor Overnight camping welcome.
May 7	Sun.	9am-4pm	Annual MVBCH Steak Ride - Meuli Ranch - Proctor, MT For tickets - Marie Hall-676-0231 or Dennese Schauss-883-5876 **Get your tickets early.** **We have sold out for the past 4 years.**
May ?	TBA		Flathead River Honoring - Leave No Trace - Scott Kiser 883-2186
May 16	Tues.	7:30 PM	Board Meeting - Ronan VFW Clubhouse Round Butte Rd.



Apaches Magic Dancer

Black and White Tennessee Walker

(Homozygous Stallion)

Stud Fee \$500 LGF

2011 and 2012 Foals available for sale.

Contact Karen Tromp, Owner

H: 406-745-3766 or C: 406-370-7653

Located at 41319 St. Mary's Lake Road, St. Ignatius

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



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



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. We need your input to make this a representation for everyone.

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

MissionValleyBCHNews@gmail.com

Editor: Bonnie Kiser bonniekiser@centurytel.net 883-2186 or Laura Nelson, lnelson@rocknleather.com 599-8809

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



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 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



Please Note: It is time to renew your membership.



*MVBCH established in June of 1980.*

**Interested in Horses in the Back Country??**

**Join us at the Next General Meeting.**

Find us on the WEB: <http://bchmt.org/wp/mission/>

**General Meetings: 7:30 pm \* 1st Tuesday of the Month  
VFW Club in Ronan  
Contact: Carol McCrum: 676-8114 Or Marie Hall: 676-0231**