



The Feedbag

June 2014

President's Message.....



I had the good fortune of serving as President during the planning, preparation and presentation of the 2014 version of the Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Convention. I was fortunate to watch our club rally behind the idea and then fulfill even the loftiest expectations. Also, as President, I had the enviable task of receiving, on your behalf, the highest of praise from the attendees for all that we had accomplished. So, on behalf of those folks, I say, "Thank you."

The convention would not have been such a success without the great leadership of Mark Wright. It is difficult to fully understand the time and energy he spent to oversee the convention planning and to make the event run so well. I know I speak for all of our members, and for all of the attendees, when I say, "Mark . . . Well done. You should be proud." I also want to recognize Ken Brown who worked closely with Mark as the Co-Chair, and Jenna Wright who served as the Convention Committee Secretary. Bravo!

A big thank you from the bottom of our hearts to all who contributed and to the following Sub-Committee Chairs who took on leadership roles and to faithful members who served as committee members.

- Arrangement – Connie Long
- Auction and Raffle – Gary Salisbury
- Keynote Speaker and Breakout Seminars – Smoke Elser
- Publicity and Advertisement – Michele Hutchins
- Registration – Suzette Moore and Caroline Bauer
- Photo Contest and Club Displays– Jenna Wright
- Cross Cut Saw Contest – John Favro
- Budget and Finance – Dan Harper
- Entertainment – Connie Basham
- Cowboy Church – Barb Parker
- Media – Ken Brown
- Vendors – John Favro
- Decorations and Centerpieces – Barb Koepke
- Insurance – Dean Hoistad

On another note, a big Congratulations to Connie Long who moves up to Chair the Back Country Horsemen of Montana. We are proud to have a friend and fellow BCH of Missoula member serve in that role.cont'd. on page 2



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WEBSITE: www.bchmt.org/wp/Missoula/

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Finally, I want to thank all of you who have helped, and will help, with education, social events, projects and other tasks. This is quite the volunteer organization.

It's time to enjoy the Summer. Sit leather and wet some saddle blankets. Relax in a meadow, sip some coffee (or whiskey and creek water) around a campfire. Cast some flies, take a swim in a mountain lake, watch the sun rise and set. Whatever your pleasure may be . . . enjoy the time. We've earned it. 'Til we visit 'round the campfire, thanks for listening.

.....**Mike Moore, President**

**The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering:
Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider
good....Ivan Scheier**

For years the June issue of The Feedbag has focused on safety. Many of you will find these articles to be redundant. Many of you wrote them. But if you are still learning, as many of us are, perhaps you will glean a useful tip among the words.

Trail Riding in Burn Areas

.....John Favro

- Be alert for potential hazards including: falling trees & limbs, especially during periods of wind.
- Look for unstable slopes and rolling material like logs and rocks, burned out stump holes, areas that may still be smoldering or burning and bridges or other trail structures that may be damaged. Avoid off-trail use in these areas.
- Before you leave, check with your local ranger station or administrator to find out which trails may be closed because of fires.
- Take a small crosscut saw and axe with you.
- Look for and avoid hazard trees that may still be burning or have burned partially through.
- Look up, down and all around as you travel through burned areas.
- Check the weather before you leave and avoid burned areas if high winds or storms are predicted.

Trail Riding with Bees

Horse Sense for the Trail Rider, Melinda Codling

- In a group, it's usually the 3rd or 4th horse that starts getting stung.
- If your horse starts to hop or buck, move down the trail as fast as possible. Bees are territorial and will not chase you beyond their territory boundaries.
- Wear half chaps, full chaps or tuck your pants inside your jeans during bee season. Jeans over the tops of boots invite bees-up-the-pant-legs. Likewise with loose-fitting shirts.
- Check yourself and your horse for bees caught in clothing, mane or tail.
- Take an antihistamine such as Benadryl immediately to minimize allergic reactions.

Trail Safety and Trail Etiquette

Travel with experienced horsemen and horsewomen. Make sure your horse is ready for the trail--physically fit and conditioned to obstacles such as water, bridges, bogs, and gates. Your horse should stand quietly while tied. Condition them to gear such as hobbles, cruppers, britchens, rain slickers, overhead branches and riding alone. Get conditioned for riding yourself. Leave a horse that kicks or a green-broke horse at home until you've worked with a trainer enough to take them out.

Leave stallions and dogs at home, unless the group agrees. A cycling mare can stir up other horses on the ride. Be vigilant if there is a stallion, dog or cycling mare in the riding group.

Stay Alert! Remember that you are the one with the thinking and reasoning ability.

Wearing a helmet is a personal choice, but recommended, especially with a young horse. Carry an emergency medical information card. When saddling up, be aware of loops hanging from your saddle that could trap you to the horse during a mishap. Always fasten the main cinch first (in increments), then the back cinch, then breast collar and then crupper. Remember to check your cinches after taking a break. When unsaddling, unfasten the main cinch last. Never mount a horse that is still tied up. Horses are always more comfortable and calm if they do not feel trapped.

Don't be shy about using a mounting block or log or rock to get into the saddle. Once mounted don't start down the trail until everyone is in the saddle. A horse left behind can get extremely nervous making it difficult, if not impossible, for anyone to mount. Wait for all other riders at water crossings or obstacles. Wait at water tanks, streams or ponds until all the horses have had a chance to drink. Stay together.

Stay alert! Remember you are the one with the thinking and reasoning ability. Maintain control of your mount at all times and think about what effect your actions might have on others less experienced than you. Maintain the proper distance between your horse and the one in front of you--two to five horse lengths between horses. Always be aware of your own horse in relation to others. Remember there is no such thing as a bombproof horse. If you can, dismount to put on your raincoat, unfold a map or handing an item to another rider. Even if you don't spook your own horse, you could spook another horse in the group. And speaking of dismounting, kick both feet free of the stirrups. That way if your horse moves you won't get the left foot hung up in the stirrup. Watch that loose garments don't catch on the saddle horn.

Walk your horse on mountain trails. Don't gait or trot unless all riders agree. Keep up so you don't find your horse trotting to catch up. If a rider needs to stop, notify the leader. Avoid stopping when going uphill or downhill when there is another rider behind you. The more difficult the terrain, the slower you and your group need to travel and the more room you need to give other horses. Preferably dismount if you must turn your horse around on narrow and/or steep trails. Always turn his head out over the down side so he can see what his feet are doing. Your weight will not be able to throw him off balance this way either. Give your horse his head in a bad spot and don't be too quick to bail off if he stumbles. This applies particularly to stream crossings, bog holes, etc.

Approach any stock with caution. Let others know you are in the area. Yield to uphill users and pack strings. When approaching bikers or hikers, talk with them so they will hopefully respond. That way the horses can see and hear them. Also, have them stand on the downhill side of the trail so they are less threatening to stock. Be courteous and respectful.

Adapted from: June 2001 Feedbag, "Back Country Horsemen of Montana Defensive Horsemanship," Paul Evenson's "Defensive Horse Safety True/False Challenge Quiz" BCH Missoula April 2008 General Meeting, "Horse Safety 4/28/07" by Gary Salisbury and "You and Your Horse"--Wilderness Outfitters, Smoke & Thelma Elser with input from Richard Tamcke.



2014 State Convention



← Honoring original and early members:
 Smoke & Thelma Elser
 Raynor Roberts
 Gwen Thibodeau
 Mike & Nancy Chandler
 Jim and Shirley Brogger



THANKS!

**To the following businesses and members who donated to the 2014
Convention auctions and the raffle:**

A Cappella Hair Studio, Missoula
Ace Hardware, Missoula
Nolan Anderson, Butte
Black Mountain Farrier, Missoula
Don Bohne, St. Ignatius
Mike & Nancy Chandler, Missoula
Crazy Horse Consignment, Lolo
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BCH Missoula Youth Scholarships

Every year our Club awards two scholarships for Smoke Elser's Wilderness Outfitting and Packing course. Topics include general horse handling, packing, minimum impact horse use and camping techniques. The classes are two days each week for eight weeks. The scholarship provides tuition to the course, University of Montana credit (at the winner's expense) and a membership to the Club.

Applicants must complete an application, provide a letter of recommendation and submit an essay of 300 words. Awards are given out the following year at the BCH of Missoula Membership Roundup held in February. Kellyn Fusfield and Jackson Holte were our 2013 winners.

Jackson Holte

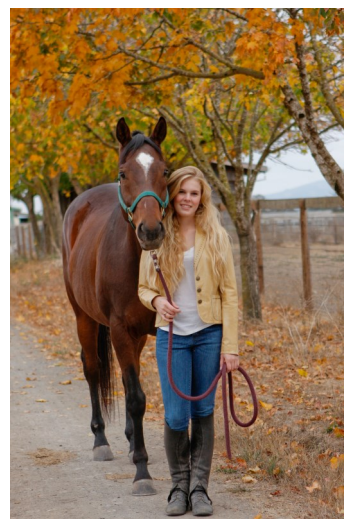
I'm a freshman at UM this year. I moved to Missoula last fall from my hometown of Plymouth, Minnesota, to study environmentalism and enjoy Emerson's "original relation to the universe." I came to love the mountains through hunting trips with my family in Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains, so I jumped at the chance to go to school in western Montana. Missoula's culture and proximity to the wilderness has made it a great fit for me. I've done my best to take advantage of both, by playing music and going camping whenever I get the chance, and I couldn't be any happier with my choice to come out here.



I came upon Smoke's class and the BCH scholarship purely by dumb luck: I was looking for ways to get involved in stock use and the club came up in a google search. The class was an incredible experience, I learned a ton and got to work with some top-notch packers in a really fun environment. I'm lucky enough to be working as a wrangler for Mack and Connie Long this summer, and I can't wait to get out in the woods.

Kellyn Fusfield

My entire childhood I dreamed about moving to Montana, so about two years ago I packed up my things and left my Northern California town. Little did I know, but my whole world was about to change! I fell in love with Montana's mountains, rivers, and wildlife. I'm currently a student at the University studying wildlife biology. I also work for MPG Operations, a local conservation organization, helping with their motion-activated wildlife cameras up in the Swan Valley. I moved my horse to Missoula in October, and he quickly learned the meaning of winter! I love to hike and camp, and look forward to continue learning about packing in the backcountry.



The eight Thursday nights I spent in Smoke's class were some of my most treasured moments. Entering his beautiful barn was like stepping right into a beautiful black and white photograph full of knowledge and tradition. I learned the tried-and-true methods of wilderness packing and was able to gain precious hands-on experience under the kind, honest eye of Smoke Elser. Knowledge of using stock in the backcountry wasn't the only thing I received from Smoke's class, but I also gained a deep *inspiration*. There is so much wilderness out there, just waiting....

Upcoming Rides, Projects, Clinics, Events

June 1	Annual Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride	Dan Harper, 258-6467
June 7	National Trails Day, Blue Mountain Trailhead, 8:00 AM	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
June 8	Clearwater Game Range Ride & Potluck	Beate & Klaus von Stutterheim (917) 697-5120 (928)567-8597
June 14	Clearwater Game Range Pre-Steak Ride, 9:00 AM	Gary Salisbury, 529-7242
June 22	Steak Ride, Clearwater Game Range, 11:00 AM	Gary Salisbury, 529-7242
June 27-29	Burnt Cabin Work Project	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
July 12	Gold Creek Ride, Upper Clark Fork BCH	Cheri & Mike Fisher 724.462.9568
July 18-20	Indian Meadows Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
August 2	Wallman Trail Ride, Rattlesnake, 10:00 AM	Bob Wiesner, 240-3296
August 15	Summer Potluck Picnic, Holt Museum, Lolo, 6:00 PM	Barbara Parker, 544-9480
August 16	Calf Creek Ride, 10:00 AM	Gary Salisbury, 529-7242
August 30	Lubrecht Forest Ride & Potluck	Mark & Jenna Wright, 531-2455
Sept. 6	Wooten Property Ride, Rattlesnake, 10:00 AM	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 7	Ray Creek Ride, Rattlesnake, 10:00 AM	Bob Wiesner, 240-3296
Sept. 13	Primm Meadows Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Sept. 17	Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM (Precedes General Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM)	
Sept. 20	Stuart Peak Ride & Trail Clearing, 10:00 AM	Bob Wiesner, 240-3296
Oct. 11	Wire Rollup, Clearwater Game Range, 9:00 AM	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Oct. 18	Blue Point Ride, Rattlesnake, 10:00 AM	Bob Wiesner, 240-3296
Dec. 6	Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, State Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, Guest House Inn	

Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area Pre-Steak Ride (June 14) 40th Annual Steak Ride (June 22) Wire Rollup (Oct. 11)

BCH of Missoula holds several events each year at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area, or the Game Range, as the locals call it. This WMA is the largest property administered by the MT Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and is home to many wildlife species. MT FW&P purchased the Boyd Ranch in 1948.

The first event at the Game Range this year is on June 14th. Gary Salisbury will lead a Pre-Steak ride, followed by the Club's 40th Annual Steak Ride on June 22nd. Tickets for the steak dinner can be purchased from Gary, cell phone number 529-7242. The trail ride leaves the Boyd Ranch by 11:00 AM and the steak dinner will be served at 3:00 PM.

There will be wagon rides available. On October 11th Richard Tamcke will lead a wire rollup project to clean up old rusty barbed wire at the Game Range. His cellphone number is 239-6417.



THANK YOU to the Montana Wilderness Association, the Shining Mountains Local Chapter and the Continental Divide Trails MT for donating to the Montana Back Country Horsemen of Montana 2014 Convention. Your gift is truly appreciated and you will see some of our faces at the 50-Year celebration of the Wilderness Act.

Volunteers are needed for the silent auction, to greet visitors, as parking attendants and more. If you can help contact Addrien Marx at lamarx@blackfoot.net.

OFFICERS

Pres. Mike Moore	370-7549
Vice-Pres. Barb Parker	544-9480
Sec'y. Christina Burns	(206) 229-0897
Treas. Dan Harper	258-6467

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Issues, Interim, Smoke Elser	549-2820
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Social, Barbara Parker	544-9480
Caroline Bauer	
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Sponsors, Interim, Myra Mumma	542-7443
Website	Vacant

Tribute to Don Barth

.....by Dan Harper

On his 82nd birthday in December, 2013, Don Barth expressed his usual birthday wish: to shoot one more elk. It was not to be. He died of pancreatic cancer April 9, 2014.

Don moved to Missoula from Spokane. He was a construction foreman before he left Missoula with his family for dental school in Nebraska. He returned to establish a large dental practice supported by loyal patients.

Don's love for horses and wilderness led him to packing into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He was a self taught packer learning quickly from his experiences. Soon he was freely sharing advice and experiences with friends. He became a trusted mentor for many aspiring packers and horsemen.

His strong athletic build, tough mind set and wilderness skills made him a formidable hunter. He enjoyed fishing and camping but horses and mules were his passion.

Don often referred to the wonderful times his family spent on Young's Creek in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The fish he caught would be the only meat the family ate and instead of T.V., they watched the horses graze. He was proud of his sons, Mike and Jim. He shared his love of riding and horses with Claudia, his wife for 65 years.





Back Country Horsemen of Missoula
P. O. Box 2121
Missoula, MT 59806

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula
~Mission Statement~

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
3. To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustained use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.