



FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

December 2007

from the President's Pen.....

Happy Holidays!

During the holidays I find myself reflecting on the past events of the year and the people who have touched my life. I have to say that the Missoula Back Country Horsemen has touched my life drastically this year. Being president of the club has been good for me and I have enjoyed it immensely. What I appreciate the most has been the chance to get to know all of you better. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all of you for volunteering your time this past year and helping the club be successful. I know how busy you are and the time and hard work you have donated to the club means a lot to me and is much appreciated. Thank you!



Over the past couple of months we have been talking about each of us hosting some type of event such as a day ride, something educational, things related to horses, things not related to horses, things that will bring us together to enrich our lives. This sounds so exciting. There has been a lot of talk about what can be done, but we now need to go the next step and put it down on the calendar. I personally am working on a Dutch oven training day along with Caroline Bauer tentatively scheduled for May. Mack and I will be hosting our annual LNT (Leave No Trace) workshop, date yet to be decided. I am challenging all of you to think about what you could do. Each one of us has something we can offer to the group if we just think about it. I can't wait to see what you come up with.

At the last general meeting we decided to help the children at the Missoula Youth Homes to have the best Christmas they can. I am sure the gifts we give will be greatly appreciated. Caroline Bauer needs a big round of applause for taking the lead on this very special project. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Missoula Back Country Horsemen would make a community service project a Christmas tradition?

The annual Christmas Party is once again hosted by Smoke and Thelma Elser in their historic barn on December 8 (see p. 3). This party is always such fun. Getting together with friends at Christmas time is so magical and makes the holidays so much more enjoyable. There have been some very nice things donated this year. A short live auction is planned but the theme is not to make this a fund raiser but a true Christmas party with an emphasis on enjoying each others' company.

The membership drive has been moved to February this year for several reasons. The main thoughts are that we would have a better turn out of potential members if it weren't held so soon after Christmas and if it weren't in frigid January. Also a thought was to have it on a Saturday and make it lots of fun. A dance is being planned with dance instructors teaching line dancing and of course we couldn't have a gathering without a potluck. Back by popular demand will be the slide show hosted by Mark Wright. If you have any pictures from this past year you would like to have shown please get them to Mark. The membership drive will be Saturday, February 23rd at the Lolo Community Center at 6:30 p.m. Wear your dancing shoes!

I would like to wish each and every one a very Merry Christmas.

Until next time,

Happy Trails!

.....**Connie Long, President**

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Leave No Trace

By Connie Long

The principles:

- ◆ Plan Ahead and Prepare
- ◆ Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- ◆ Dispose of Waste Properly
- ◆ Leave What You Find
- ◆ Minimize Campfire Impacts
- ◆ Respect Wildlife
- ◆ Be Kind to Other Users

To minimize your impact try to use some of the ideas below –

- ◆ A protective ground cloth will protect the ground from trampling. It's a must for your tent and kitchen areas but you might also consider one around the camp fire and other areas where there will be high foot traffic use.
- ◆ Lightweight Chairs, Cots and Tables eliminate the need to construct furniture from native materials.
- ◆ Cook on gas and use campfires for “atmosphere.” This is cleaner and faster plus no wood cutting is required.
- ◆ Campfires blacken rocks and sterilize the soil. Build a leave no trace campfire by utilizing a fire blanket or fire pan with at least 6 inches of mineral soil under the fire to insulate the ground from heat. If these things are not available then only build your fire in an area where there is an existing fire ring.
- ◆ Deposit human waste 200 ft. from camp, water and trails. Bury 6 to 8 inches with mineral soil. For larger parties dig a pit; save the top soil to place back on top once filled in.
- ◆ Saw downfall out of the trail as much as possible. Riding around these obstacles will create unwanted trails.
- ◆ A collapsible rake will be useful to disguise and rehab your campsite before you leave. A shovel can be used as well. Both are good for filling in holes, scattering manure and covering disturbed areas easily.
- ◆ Use bear resistant food storage containers or hanging systems to decrease the opportunity for scavengers from becoming habituated to human food which increases the risk for conflicts.
- ◆ Feed certified weed free hay and grain to your stock several days in advance of your trip to decrease spreading weed seeds in the back country.
- ◆ Contain your stock properly by using hobbles, pickets, a highline, an electric corral, or a hitch rail when available. Generally the less confined an animal is, the less impact there will be on the land. Tie to trees only when absolutely necessary as this type of confinement causes girdling of trees and trampling of vegetation. This is a very high impact way to contain stock.

Thanks for utilizing the low impact principles of Leave No Trace in the back country and wilderness areas. If we all do our part, these areas will remain scenic and enjoyable for generations to come.



Overlooking Hermosa Park
San Juan Mountains, Colorado

*“Let no one say,
And say it to your shame,
That all was beauty here
Until you came.”*

2008 Officers

New officers for 2008 were voted in at the General Meeting on Nov. 21. President Connie Long, Vice-President Paul Evenson, Secretary Sandi Treadaway and Treasurer Barbara Koepke were all voted in for a second year. Replacing Keith Guschausky and Kirk Sybrandt on the Board of Directors are Richard Tamcke and Lola Mae LeProwse. Past President Gary Salisbury is also on the Board. For State Directors, Mike Chandler's term is up; Connie Long will serve as an Alternate Director and Gary Salisbury, who was Alternate, will be a two-year State Director. All of the Committee Chairs agreed to keep their positions. Thanks to all of you who work so hard for MBCH.

**Happy
Holidays,
Pardner!**



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

Invite You to Join their 2007 Holiday Celebration

**See Old Friends
Meet New
Good Food
Great Stories**

**December 8, 2007
Potluck Dinner
6:00 p.m.**

**Smoke & Thelma Elser's Barn
3800 Rattlesnake Dr.
(Turn on Rattlesnake Ct.)**

There will be a small auction with some great items: One of Sandy Evenson's quilt creations, a pack saddle with mule bars, an original painting by Rick Sherman plus others.

Coffee, tea, lemonade and water provided. The Club will furnish rolls and butter. Please bring a main dish or meat and salad or dessert, along with your own utensils. Dress is warm and casual.

Bring a Friend and Prospective Member!

Membership applications will be available. Pay your 2008 dues to beat the rush at the January Potluck!

Your Christmas Party Committee: Mark & Jenna Wright, Barbara Koepke, Smoke Elser, Claudia Barth, Suzette Moore, Sandi Treadaway, Pat Culver, Nancy Chandler and Mike and Michelle Hutchins

White River Park

By Don Dodge & Anna Tucker

The picture below on the left was taken south of White River Park. This Park is located where the White River comes into the South Fork of the Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. Twenty some years ago Don had been concerned that there was so much ladder fuel in White River Park that the large pines could burn. "Happily that has not been the case," discovered Don last August. "There was some kill on the fringes of the park with smaller pines that fire laddered into, but the body of the park has survived." The middle picture shows old growth pines with plenty of ladder fuel. Right is an old burn that Anna says shows "incredible beauty—bright purple fireweed above the green forest floor—arisen from apparent disaster."



One-Horse Packing

By Rick Sherman

For the last several years I have been trying to put together a lead horse pack-horse team. Every time I get close something happens to one of the horses to set the process back. About three years back, I worked my Arab and my daughter's horse together for the spring and early summer to get them accustomed to the roles they must play to work together as a team. We did our first trip of three days and they worked great together even in some pretty rough places. Unfortunately my saddle horse developed a heart problem that would cause her eyes to roll up into her head and she would flop over and pass out cold. This can be a bit unnerving. The good news is that she did this in camp after the long climb into the Great Burn and not on the steep narrow trail on the way up.

I finally got another horse. A four-year old, off-the-range-reservation-feral horse that has taken me the last two summers to get to the point where I feel confident enough to take him out alone. He still has some issues with the unfamiliar, which also can be a bit unnerving when leading another horse. This summer I felt I could start working the two together. The packhorse pulled up lame and the vet diagnosed navicular in both front feet.



Feather and Cobalt outfitted for one-horse packing

←

Now Feather's horse is around 32 and his teeth are worn out. He has a hard time holding weight. We are feeding him like an old dog. He gets senior feed, beet pulp, and soaked Brophy cubes every day just to keep him alive. Making it through the winter is questionable and then he really can't be expected to work too hard. I'm looking for two more horses now and trying to find some good experienced mountain horses without much money to work with.

In the meantime, we have continued to go on backcountry trips with just the two saddle horses. This means one-horse packing. By that, I mean carrying everything we need for up to four days on the horse we're riding. It means going light.


The whole point of pack animals is to be able to carry the comforts and pleasures of a well-stocked camp with you. One-horse means something different. We tend to go lighter than when we backpack. There has to be a consideration of how much the horse can carry in gear and rider without stressing him out. To do this, we pack like we would for backpacking, then reduce the amount of gear to a bare minimum.

The sleeping bags are essential but bulky and tents are heavy and also bulky. I have dealt with this dilemma by eliminating the tent and rolling the bags up in 8X10 lightweight tarps. I roll them up so the bundle comes out about 5 feet long and 6-8 inches in diameter. I lay these over each of the horses' necks and tie them in to the D rings on the saddle. In this way we have our sleeping and shelter covered and the bulk of it is out of the way so we can swing our legs over the saddle when we get on.

For the cooking scene I have been using one of those ultra-light backpacker stoves that fold up into a bundle the size of a fist. This and the fuel canister fit in one of the saddlebags. For food we have been using freeze-dried packages. Some of

(continued on page 6)

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Mildred Hartkorn passed away November 23rd. Mildred supported MBCH and came to many of the events with son, Mike. Our hearts are with Mike and the rest of the family. MBCH will be making a contribution to a charity in honor of her life.

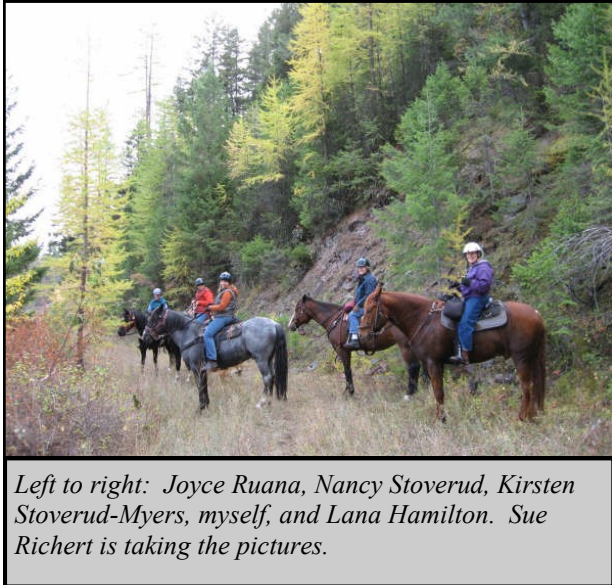


Day Ride, October 12, 2007

.....by Myra Mumma

What made this day ride so special for some of us Back Country Horsewomen of Missoula? It was really no different than several of this year's rides. Only that this was Joyce Ruana's birthday and she'd asked to go

on a horseback ride and do lunch. Joyce was one of the first members in this group called the "Joy Riders." She always reminds us to make trail riding a priority. "Housework can wait until wintertime," she'd say. "Gardening can wait." She has also dusted many of us off and put us back in the saddle when we've lost our confidence.



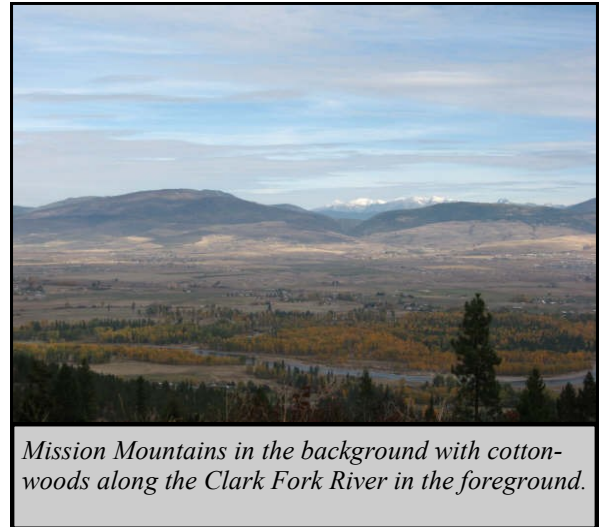
Left to right: Joyce Ruana, Nancy Stoverud, Kirsten Stoverud-Myers, myself, and Lana Hamilton. Sue Richert is taking the pictures.

Joyce wanted to ride a trail she calls "The Backwoods." Gloria Curdy tells me they call it "Martin Gulch." It's handy to get to from Target Range and Big Flat. In the past there was a lot of parking space but now it's developed into home sites. My husband and I would go there some nights after work. I was indignant when someone dumped an old orange plaid couch under the Ponderosa pines there. "Of all the nerve," I'd tell him. He saw it as an opportunity and we would sit on it after the ride to enjoy an ice cold beer and watch the sunset. I also used to ride there with Laurie DeMarois after she got off work, which was usually very late in the evening. She was always so curious about the landscape. We had endless discussions about the tree stumps we rode by. About the huge rounds of logs left behind by loggers because they had rotten centers and weren't salvageable. We talked about the knapweed, the flowers, the shrubs like elderberries and dogwoods.

Since the housing development, we park along Big Flat Road. There is really only room for about three truck/trailer units. To alleviate the parking problem, we meet at someone's house, in this case it was Bonnie Doherty's home, to consolidate horses in trailers. My mare was missing a front shoe, so I put an Easy Boot on her. Sue Richert, who provided these pictures, rode behind me to monitor the Easy Boot. Well, Bonnie and I must have made it ten feet and the darned thing fell off! So we had to hold up the riders while she picked it up and stuck it in her saddle bag.

The trail up the creek bottom is a steady climb. Gloria tells me that this creek isn't named and that it flows intermittently. Well, "No Name Creek" was flowing this day—through moss-covered logs and rocks that gave off a damp, earthy smell. It's pretty dark in the creek bottom, but now and then some rays of sunlight would beam the water, turning downed logs and rocks into dark greens and browns. On our right were unique rock formations and lacy larch all in shades of gold as they prepared to drop their needles for yet another winter.

We got high enough on old logging roads to see the Mission Mountains. They were dusted in snow which contrasted with the yellow and gold cottonwood trees of the Clark Fork River below us. Man, what a sight.



Mission Mountains in the background with cottonwoods along the Clark Fork River in the foreground.

Clearly sharing Joyce's birthday made this ride special. It is also special just to be outdoors with good friends. It's always a source of pride to ride a beautiful horse—even more so if it's well trained! And, we knew without even saying so that this would be one of the last rides of the season. Always, we talk about how lucky we are to have these trails to ride so close to home and, yes, we talk about how nice it is of MBCH to maintain them for us! All these things made the day special, but there's more to it than that. Each bend in the trail brought new colors and smells, new vistas of the great Clark Fork and the Missions. The beauty of this country brushes your heart with such joy. I guess that's why this group calls themselves the Joy Riders.....

**Montana State Trails Conference
April 17-19, 2008**

The 2008 State Trails Conference will be held April 17, 18 and 19 at the Holiday Inn Downtown/Parkside. Tentatively scheduled are two day-long sessions. There will be a reception on Friday evening. This event will provide an opportunity for trail recreationists including hikers, bicyclers, horseback riders, skiers, OHV riders and snowmobilers to share information and discuss issues.

**Wilderness and Trails Conference
January 28-31, 2008**

The agenda for this conference at Lubrecht is in the planning process. It starts at noon on the 28th with a possible field trip on Thursday. There will be a speaker from BCH to talk about volunteer agreements. Chris Ryan and John Favro in the Regional Office, Region One, are putting this conference together.

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President

I'm Dusty, my wife is Sandy, my boy's is Rocky, and my daughter's name is Wendy. Our names describe this ranch perfectly.

*Dusty Ray,
The Cowboy Kind*

(continued from page 4)

these are designed to have hot water poured directly into the package to cook. This eliminates most of the cook kit. We take one small pot, a four cup coffee percolator, and the basic utensils. All this fits in the pot along with the coffee and some dry food like granola or oatmeal. I hang all this in a bag off the saddle horn on one side and the highline rope on the other for weight balance.

This is a summer thing so I don't take a lot of clothes. I usually take the clothes I'm wearing and a change in case I get wet. Coats and raingear strap on behind the cante. I ride with a small mountaineering back pack. It is narrow and has a padded belt strap and a cross-over strap to hold the shoulder straps on. This kind of pack is designed for rock climbers so there is freedom of movement for the arms and the straps hold the pack tight to the body so it doesn't flop around at a trot or lope or the occasional rodeo. The food and extra clothes go in the pack along with the first aid kit and any other small light soft things. I had a horse back off a bridge in the Pintlers last year when I was wearing this pack. I didn't have anything hard like a pot in it so when I landed on my back I was protected from the impact. I realized then how important it is to be aware of what is in the pack in case you do come off.

The rest of the hardware associated with the horses goes in the saddlebags. I carry the picket chain, hobbles, and swivels for the highline in a bag in one saddlebag and water purifier and bottle, folding saw, etc. in the other.

When we camp, we throw up a small sleeping fly and lay the other tarp out as a ground cloth. The saddle blankets are our sleeping pads. Pack pads are much better but saddle pads are okay when there are no pack pads. I throw up the highline and picket one of the horses and let the other graze and we're home.

This is roughing it a bit but we are not limited by the lack of pack stock for short trips. We have gone for as much as four days this way and could likely do more if you could put up with that much freeze-dried food or bring fishing gear. It's great for weekend trips.

Lets face it, stock does have an impact on the land. The more stock you have the greater the impact. This way you can really lessen the impact for short trips and you have the advantage of using smaller, more sensitive areas that wouldn't accommodate more animals for grazing. It's good also for taking day trips away from camp on your saddle horses and you don't have to pony your empty pack stock or worry about them being left on the highline while you're gone.

I would enjoy the opportunity to talk about this with more experienced backcountry riders. I'm sure I could pick up some tips on horse care and how much we could expect of our horses for this kind of use. There may be some good ideas for lightweight gear that could be incorporated into the adventure. It would be worth the discussion.

Davis Creek-Sapphire Ranch Project

On October 13, MBCH teamed up with the Bitterroot Back Country Horsemen, Montana Conservation Corp., Montana Bowhunters and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to haul fencing supplies to the Davis Creek-Sapphire Ranch. They hauled 18” rails up to make fences lower for elk to cross, took out posts and rolled up wire to make the area more wild-life-friendly.



Above: Charles Culver and his neighbor, Gary Carvajal. Pictures provided by Pat Culver

National Bison Range Trail Ride

Don Dodge and Anna Tucker participated in the National Bison Range Trail Ride last June 3rd. Don says, “The weather was good even if a bit warm. The scenery was great but a little hazy this year.” For 53 years the Mission Rangers Saddle Club has sponsored a ride on the National Bison Range. The Bison Range is only open to horses one day a year which is for this ride. This year it was held on June 3rd. The Bison Range asks that riders use weed-free hay for at least three days prior to the ride and horses’ hooves have to be picked before the ride. It is an all-day ride with lunch served at High Point by the St. Ignatius Chamber of Commerce. The route is chosen and led by Bison Range officials and it covers approximately 12 to 15 miles with elevation gains of 2000 feet which may occur in as little as one mile. Safety issues, requirements for riders and mounts and camping information (at least for last year) are listed on the following website: www.jbarstenbergranch.com.



Far Left: Don took this picture from across his saddle. Middle: Lunch at the top of Red Sleep Mountain. Right: Anna on Nikita—heading home. Pictures by Don Dodge.



Editor’s Notes

The Feedbag has gone online. A PDF file will be posted on our website at www.bchmt.org as well. If there are problems, call me at 542-7443 or e-mail: jmmumma@montana.com.

There is a fundraiser dinner and auction for Marie Lanier on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Corvallis High School lunchroom starting at 6:00 pm. This fundraiser is to help Marie with medical expenses after being thrown from a 3-yr. old molly. The fall broke her neck but she is expected to recover. Her story is an interesting one—about riding this molly for the first time without a cell phone and no one around. It was hours before she got treatment. Read it if you’re interested at www.gaitedmules.com. She also has four young mules for sale.

I really appreciate the contributions of stories and pictures. Next issue comes out March 1 and the deadline for submissions is February 20.

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Why Ain't Santa a Cowboy?

"Why don't Santa use horses?" my daughter asked with a frown.
She wanted an answer, so I sat her right down.
I stopped and I pondered how to get this right,
For Santa was due not much later that night.

Well Hon, it ain't easy to be Santa you see,
He has millions of presents to deliver this eve.
When I was your age, I had that question too,
'cause it seemed to make sense to use a nag like Ol' Blue.

I thought I could lend him my best pard to use,
So I sent him a letter and gave him the news:
"Ol' Blue would be happy to help pull your sleigh,
But if you switch to horses, then you have to haul hay.

"You can't go out in your red Santa stuff,
For Blue mightn't like it and ride kind of rough.
You'd hafta wear spurs and the right kinda boot,
Not black rubber galoshes and a red velvet suit.

"A ten gallon hat would also be needed,
Not that red floppy thing that has so far succeeded.
And gloves, not mittens, would be par for the course.
You'll need all your fingers to ride my ol' horse.

"Ol' Blue can be ornery and sometimes quite nasty,
So mount him with care and don't be to hasty.
Oh yeah: He don't fly, so don't try to make him,
If ya think you can force him your bones he'll be breakin.

"Reindeer are nice, but you can't beat a horse,
To steer you around a straight and true course.
So anyway Santa, just write me a letter,
If you like my plan and think Ol' Blue would work better."

So I licked me a stamp and I stuck it in place,
Then I sent it to Santa with a smile on my face.
I didn't hafta wait long for long for he answered right quick,
His reply wasn't long, but the package was thick.

"Do you hate me?" it said with a really sad tone
"Do you want me to break all my Santa Claus bones?
Your nag sounds a nightmare; like pain is his goal,
Now here is your present," and out poured black coal.

So learn from me, darling, and don't irk St. Nick,
If you want a good present, not a big bag of ick.
Santa has a system that has helped steer his course,
He don't want advice and he don't want a horse.

.....Dianne Baumann

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 8 State Board Meeting, Elser's Barn, 10-5
Members are Welcome
- Dec. 8 MBCH Christmas Potluck, 6:00 pm
- Dec. 12 MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 7:00 pm
- Jan. 16 MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00 pm
- Jan. 28-31 Wilderness/Trails Conference, Lubrecht,
Noon
- Feb. 23 MBCH Potluck & Membership Drive, Lolo
Community Center, 6:30 pm
- Mar. 19 MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00 pm
- Apr. 18-20 Montana Trails Conference, Missoula
Holiday Inn

Missoula County 4-H State Horse Show September 14-16, 2007

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula sponsored a trail class, ages 12 to 14 yrs., for the 4-H State Horse Show this last September at the Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis. As you know, 4-H provides many wonderful opportunities for all ages of youth. Montana's 4-H has about 3,500 members in the horse project alone. Missoula County has 21 4-H clubs, about 425 members and 165 leaders. Our own BCH of Missoula member, Richard Tamcke, is very actively involved with Missoula County 4-H. He helps all the clubs with trail classes and is a project leader with the Clinton Kodiak 4-H Club. Below is the thank you and picture received from the winner of the class MBCH sponsored.

Thank you so much for supporting 4-H! It is such a great program to be involved in and people like you make it even better! When I bought my horse, Molly, two years ago she was trained as a barrel horse. Now just two years later, we are doing great at a state level! I never worked so hard to get here and it was well worth it, thanks to the generosity of people like you! Coming here to compete in 4-H is such a great experience and people like you make it so much better!

Thanks Again!
Love,
Emily Jochen and
Invite Molly Pine



Emily Jochen and Invite Molly Pine

Nancy Stoverud's Traveling Salesman

Awhile back Nancy Stoverud answered her doorbell to find a tall young man standing there. He handed her a box of Arm & Hammer Washing Soda and asked if he could discuss cleaning products with her. He wondered if she used washing soda; she said, "Well, yes, once in awhile." So he said he'd be right back as he had another cleaning product to discuss. The box said "Kirby Vacuum Cleaner!" Nancy told him honestly that she didn't need a vacuum cleaner because her floors were tiled—"in the colors of horse manure, dog hair and the color of mud her grandchildren track in." The salesman's jaw dropped and Nancy reports that he was speechless. He picked up the vacuum and turned away, but as an afterthought, asked Nancy for the Arm & Hammer Washing Soda back! Nancy has wished many times she'd thought to show him this card.....



A woman's work is never done.

Classified Ads

Free to a Special Home:

26 yr. old AQHA Gelding.
15 Hands, UTD on all shots, worming, and hoof trimming. Will make great pasture companion. Light trail riding. Very sociable, gets along with other horses.
273-2265 or 721-5857
TO APPROVED HOME ONLY.



For Sale:

16" Semi Quarter Horse Bars C. Circle Y Trail and Working Saddle. Lightweight with comfortable deep seat and lots of forward swing in the fenders for long hours on the trail. Three-way, in-skirt rigging, 4" cantle, grain-out seat; 2-1/2" bell-bottom stirrups. Basketweave tooling on a rich pecan finish. 12-1/2" swell. \$699.00 Call Barbara Koepke, 626-4351

For Sale:

Steak Ride T-Shirts. Last Call! Call Paul Evenson, 251-2163

Reward Offered:

For information about BCH of Missoula Cross Cut Saw missing from the Storage Unit for almost a year now. Call Paul Evenson, 251-2163, if you know anything about this missing saw.

January Potluck

February 23, 2008
Lolo Community Center
6:30 PM

Bring a Prospective Member!
Raffle
Door Prizes
Awards
Lots of Food
Good Company

