



# FEED BAG



Myra Mumma, Editor

December 2008

## President's Message.....

This is my last president's message. As I reflect on my two-year tenure as your president, I believe that the experience has enriched my life. I have truly enjoyed it. I can't say it hasn't been a lot of work but it has been fun.

I would like to take this opportunity to give heartfelt thanks to all of you for your support. Can you imagine leading a club with so many members who are eager and willing to help? You made my job so much easier. I believe we have the best chapter in Montana and it's all because of you.



CONNIE & WEBSTER

I want to congratulate Paul Evenson for being elected President for 2009. I know Paul will be a successful leader. Congratulations to Mark Wright for being elected Vice President. Mark and Paul will be a great team that will benefit Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. Also, a big thanks to Barb Koepke for her willingness to be Treasurer for another year. She has done a great job and deserves a big round of applause. And congratulations to Jenna Wright for being elected Secretary. This job is so important and not one that a lot of people are willing to do. She'll do an excellent job!

Thank you, committee chairs, for everything that you do and for being there for me. Every job within the club takes a lot of work and dedication and you all have done a great job.

Gary and I look forward to being your State Directors;we'll be a good team. With Smoke Elser as our alternate, how can we go wrong? I am committed to representing the club in this capacity and have vowed to bring information back to the club that you need to know. We have a big job ahead of us as I believe it will be a challenge to keep the State Board and Back Country Horsemen of America from making changes that will negatively affect new wilderness designations. Changes that I feel could alter the very foundation of what Back Country Horsemen originally stood for.

Our club is built on volunteerism and I have appreciated everyone's time, effort and dedication. Thanks again for your support during my two years as your president. I am proud to say I am a member of the Missoula Chapter of Back Country Horsemen and proud to be past president.

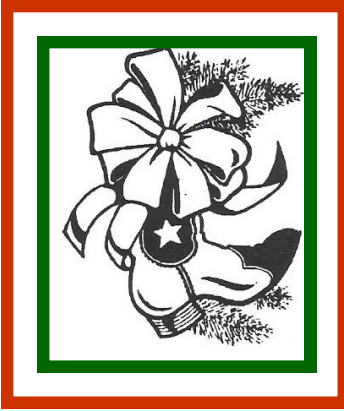
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## .....Connie Long, President

### Mission Statement

- ◆ Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- ◆ Work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
- ◆ Assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
- ◆ 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.

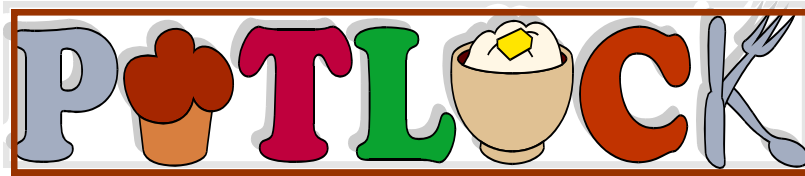


## KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH THE BCH CHRISTMAS PARTY—December 13, 2008

Our annual Christmas party is coming up; a time to join together for an evening of fellowship, dinner and music. The event will again be a potluck dinner at Smoke and Thelma Elser's barn (3800 Rattlesnake.) We ask that each family bring a hot dish, sliced meat or chicken, dessert, appetizer or salad. The club will provide hot and cold beverages and dinner rolls. Kick-off time for the party is at 6:00. Dress is casual, warm attire. We hope to have a good turnout. Bring a prospective guest, whether a horse owner or not. A special invitation is extended to all out-of-town board members who will be at the barn that day for the Montana Back Country Horsemen Board meeting. Any member is welcome to attend the State meetings.

## 2009 MBCH MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP

Don't miss the 2009 Membership Potluck on February 28, 2009 at the Lolo Community Center, starting at 6:00 p.m. We'll have some super door prizes, music by Pat Colyer and Friends band, dancing and lots of fun company. This is a potluck so please bring a family sized dish—either an appetizer, salad, casserole, meat, or dessert. Please bring prospective members, whether they are horse owners or not.



Dear Friend and MBCH Member, Barbara Parker, is recovering from an accident at the Harbor View Medical Center in Seattle. She's had some surgeries with more to come.

Following is a recap of Barb's profile taken from a December 1996 *Feedbag*. Barbara had been a member of MBCH for ten years in 1996. She learned about the club "when they were doing a fund-raising trip for another member and became better acquainted with the club through a MBCH education program at the fairgrounds." Since joining, Barbara has been a dedicated member, serving as president, vice-president, social chair, publicity chair, State Board Director, local board director.

Barb was born in a small town in Virginia. She's loved horses ever since she petted one at age three. She went to public school through the sixth grade but because of her eyesight, her parents taught her and her sister at home through high school. She was the oldest of seven children. Her parents took in foster children so sometimes there were up to fourteen children in the house. Barbara has continued to work with foster children in different capacities throughout her adult life.

If you would like to send Barbara a card, her address is Barbara Parker, c/o Harbor View Medical Center. 325 - 9th Ave., ICU Room 930, Seattle, WA. 98104.

**INPUT NEEDED:** The 2009 Ride Schedule will have a ride at least every month beginning in April and ending in October. Please give us some ideas of your favorite trails to ride or some new ones you'd like to explore.

Ride Co-Chairpersons Richard Tamcke, 258-6621 or Sandi Treadaway at 728-3459

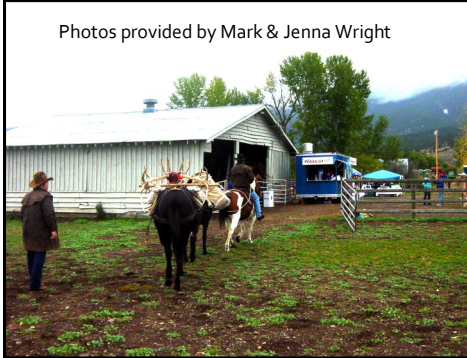
# MBCH EVENTS

## 2nd Annual Old West Autumn Fest

### Opportunity Ranch, Frenchtown



Photos provided by Mark & Jenna Wright



BCH of Missoula voted to have a presence at this event on September 21, 2008. Smoke Elser took his mules to pack and Thelma must have let him use her horse, Arapaho, because he led the string. Pictured in the far left is Mark Wright riding Arapaho. Center shows Smoke looking on as the string passes by. The Old West Autumn Fest is held on two Sundays in September and includes hay rides, pumpkin picking, food, dancing, music, farm animals, fire fighter displays, exhibits, arts and crafts, farmers' market, apple cider making and lots of games. The Fest is held at the Opportunity Ranch, a 160-acre working ranch for individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity Resources, Inc. is a 54-year old non-profit community organization serving 400 individuals. They provide daily services such as employment, training, support housing, transportation and recreation.

## Montana State 4-H Horse Show September 14-16, 2008



The 2008 Montana State 4-H Horse Show was held September 14-16, 2008, at the Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis, MT. The show featured 49 classes in all. Back Country Horsemen of Missoula sponsored the Trail Class. Participants are divided into age groups of 9-11, 12-14 and 15-18. The winner of each class is awarded a belt buckle, which Barbara Koepke (lower left hand photo), representing Missoula BCH, is handing to a very happy winner. Barbara and Myra also handed out ribbons to the other winning 4-H'ers. 4-H teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills to young people across America. The 4-H program is the largest out-of-school youth program in the U. S. with over seven million members and 500,000 volunteers. Montana has 25,000 4-H members. MBCH sponsorship of this trail class is important to these young riders and they appreciate it!

# MEETING PROGRAMS

The September 17th MBCH general meeting started early with a great ice cream social. Mike Speake had a Kifaru tent and stove set up on the FW&P lawn to demonstrate lightweight horse packing. The tent and stove together weighed about 13 pounds.



October 15th general meeting program was given by Ginger Hamilton, Forest Service Regional Volunteer Coordinator, who talked about how important volunteers are to the Forest Service. She also advised that the Forest Service will begin to train some of our members as certifiers for both types of saw training so they in turn can train other members.



## Log and Water Crossing Clinic & Ride by Richard Tamcke

M BCH members met Richard Tamcke on September 6th at Erskine Fishing Access west of Frenchtown. The classroom was the cottonwood bottoms of the Clark Fork River. Before the riders left the parking lot, Richard helped them with several issues. Your horse has to stand quietly as you mount and after you're in the saddle. Richard



Richard—looking for the next challenge!

showed the “stand up and stop” position in the stirrup until the horse stood quietly. If he moves, step back down and take him back to your original position. Richard prefers to get into the saddle by grasping a hunk of mane with the left hand and the right pommel of the saddle with the right hand. That way both hands are in position. He also only holds one rein as he gets into the saddle. “A horse isn't going to turn the other way if you're holding the short rein closest to you.” Any horse training has to be practiced over and over at home, before getting on a trail.



Jack Reneau on Scamp

For the riders with synthetic saddles, Richard turned the stirrup leathers a 90 degree angle to the fenders so the stirrups are facing forward. In this position a rider is able to slip his boot into his stirrup without twisting it. Yay! No more aching knees!

He talked a lot about giving the horse something else to focus on if he spooks at a horse-eating rock or stump—or a deer! The idea is to firmly raise your rein to direct him to turn in another direction. Of course, there will have to be enough room to maneuver the animal into that other direction. Richard calls this “giving your horse something else to think about.” Mark Wright had occasion to use this technique on Salsa, his mustang, a couple of times during the clinic.



Richard on Amir, left, and Lana Hamilton on Sonny, right.

As for the log and water crossing, again, the horse needs to be schooled at home if he has a history of rearing, bucking, balking or running off when he's asked to do something. Basically Richard asked his young Arabian gelding, Amir, to cross water by making sure the footing was solid and free of jagged rocks. And he didn't ask him to go into bottomless bogs. In short, he asked nothing of Amir “that he couldn't handle.” Richard was patient with him at the edge of the water. He chose a specific spot to cross and he didn't push him hard. “Horses are just trying to figure out how deep the water is and how good the footing is,” says Richard. Little wonder about that since a lot of horses haven't been around any water bigger than a water bucket or tank for the first part of their lives! So Richard was super patient and just kept Amir's head pointed at the spot he wanted to cross.

Some of the riders thought they could help by taking their experienced horses across first, but Richard asked that they wait until the lesson was over. Soon his little gelding lowered his head and pointed his ears toward the water; then his front feet went in.

The riders did some bogs, walked the horses through side channels in the Clark Fork River and climbed sandy drop-offs that gave way under the horses' feet. Richard led them into downed cottonwood logs where some of the logs were rotted. At one area a whitetail doe jumped up in front of Richard's gelding. It looked like he was going to jump right out of his skin, but Richard calmly guided his head around “to give him something else to think about.”



Richard, leading on Amir, Jenna Wright on Ramble in the center, and Mark Wright brings up the rear on Salsa.

What a great clinic! And what an opportunity for us members to have access to so many talented trainers, like Richard, who volunteer their time to make us safer and better riders.

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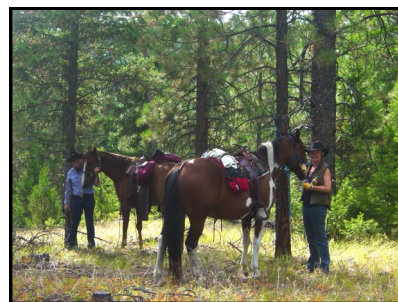
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# LUBRECHT RIDE

# CLUB RIDES

On September 20th, Mark Wright led a club-sponsored ride into Lubrecht Forest. The Lubrecht Experimental Forest is a wonderful choice for trail riding. The forest is also open for hunting, fishing, cross country skiing and general hiking. In cooperation with adjoining public and private landowners, the Forest is involved in a variety of recreational programs and walk-in areas along the Blackfoot River Recreation corridor. Lubrecht Forest is 30 miles northeast of Missoula in the Blackfoot River drainage and it is jointly owned by the University of Montana and Montana DNRC.



Klaus & Beate von Stutterheim

.....Photos submitted by Mark Wright



Bob Weisner, rear, Richard Tamcke, left and Jess Maynard , right

## Blue Mountain Ride

MBCH members rode to Blue Mountain Lookout on October 4th. This ride was led by Richard Tamcke and Sandi Treadaway, Trail Ride Co-Chairpersons. The group met at the Blue Mountain Recreation Area parking lot on a rainy morning that turned nicer later on. About a dozen riders made their way up to the Lookout, which is only manned during fire season. The riders got high enough above the rain clouds to get incredible views of the Garnet, Swan, Rattlesnake, Mission Mountains and Cabinet



Richard Tamcke & Bob Weisner using an Oregon saw, a pruning curved saw that is very efficient in the back country.

Ranges; the Scapegoat, Bob Marshall, and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Areas and the Missoula Valley and Lolo Peak.

Photos submitted by Sandi Treadaway

## Rattlesnake Ride

MBCH Trail Ride Chairpersons, Richard and Sandi, organized this late fall ride on October 18th. The group was so large that they split into two groups because of the group size limit. Some of the riders: Karen and Madeline Wiltse, Jess Maynard, Dawn Metz, Ken Brown, Kelly and Greg Sikes.

Ken Brown took one group and gives this accounting of the ride:

*We went up Spring Gulch into Curry Culch and then up over the ridge into the old Wooten Ranch off the Sawmill Gulch trail head. We then proceeded up out of the Wooten property. On the way, Kelly Sikes spotted two cow elk bolting just below us. Then we stopped for lunch with a view of Mount Jumbo on one side and the Bitterroot Valley and the airport on the other. After lunch we took a back trail that connected with the Stuart Peak Trail. From here we dropped back down into the head of Spring Gulch and back to the horse facility.*

Richard took the other half of the group to Farmers Lakes, stopped at the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area sign for lunch and headed back to the horse facility.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 13 MT State BCH Board Meeting, 10:00, Smoke's Barn, Missoula
- Dec. 13 MBCH Christmas Potluck, 6:00, Smoke & Thelma's Barn
- Jan. 3 Membership Potluck Committee Meeting, 6:30, Jokers Wild
- Jan. 4 MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30, FW&P
- Jan. 15 MBCH General Meeting, 7:00 FW&P
- Feb. 4 MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30, FW&P
- Feb. 20 Deadline for *Feedbag* submissions
- Feb. 28 Annual Membership Potluck, 6:00, Lolo Community Center
- Mar. 4 MBCH Board Meeting, 6:30, FW&P
- Mar. 18 MBCH General Meeting, 7:00, FW&P
- Mar. 27-29 State BCH Convention, Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena



Leaving the Rattlesnake Trailhead  
.....Photo by Sandi Treadaway

**Editor's Notes**



The latest issue of *The Bugle*, a publication by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation features an entertaining article by Nancy Stevens titled "Forkin' the Devil." Many of you know that Nancy "cooks, packs and writes about it all" in the Bob Marshall WA. *The Bugle* editor added a note at the bottom of the article: "Smoke Elser claims he used to change her (Nancy's) diapers but this is an outfitter prevarication."

Speaking of articles in *The Bugle*, my 14-year old grandson wrote a story about his 2007 elk hunt (at his grandmother's insistence!) that is supposed to be published in the next issue, which is the January-February 2009 issue. I hope you'll watch for it. His name is Carter Nielsen.

My sincere apology to one of our sponsors, Old Timer Tack & Saddle, for mistakenly dropping their ad in the last two issues of *The Feedbag*. Please stop by Mike and Julie Beckel's custom saddlery and repair shop!

A very sad note—Jack and Susan Reneau's gelding, Scamp, pictured on page 4, died on November 11. He got sick on hunting trip that Jack made in the Ennis area and died later of kidney failure and possibly colic. Our hearts go out to Jack and Susan because Scamp was a trusted member of their family.

Smoke says the 2009 Ninemile Training Center's classes are filling up fast so if you want to register, you'd best hurry. Check out <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-cultural> for class information or call the Ninemile Ranger District at 626-5201.

The Blue Mountain Recreation Area horse facility project contract has been awarded and work should start on it next spring. BCH members will be taking care of the information sign and putting in fencing.

Thank you all for the stories and photos you submitted! You're great and I couldn't do this newsletter without your willingness to help!

Have a blessed holiday season!

*Myra*

**NEW OFFICERS**

November 19, 2008 was election night for new MBCH officers and board members. Paul Evenson was voted in as the new President, Mark Wright as Vice-President, Jenna Wright as Secretary and Barbara Koepke remains as Treasurer for the FIFTH YEAR! Chapter Board Members are: Two-year: Alan Meyers, Mack Long and Ken Brown. Mike Chandler was voted in as the one-year board member.

Connie Long, outgoing President, was given a standing ovation by club members, as well as Paul, outgoing Vice-President; Sandi Treadaway, outgoing Secretary; and Barbara Koepke, Treasurer.

Watch for New Officers' Profiles in the March issue of *The Feedbag*.

**2008 OFFICERS**

Pres. Connie Long	626-5539
Vice-Pres. Paul Evenson	251-2163
Sec'y. Sandi Treadaway	728-3459
Treas. Barbara Koepke	626-4351

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark Colyer (1 yr.)	273-4732
Pat Culver (1 yr.)	273-2265
Lola Mae LeProwse (2 yr.)	251-5729
Gary Salisbury (Past Pres.)	273-6967
Rick Sherman (2 yr.)	825-2247
Richard Tamcke (2 yr.)	258-6621
Mark Wright (1 yr.)	258-6795

**STATE DIRECTORS**

Smoke Elser (1 yr.)	549-2820
Gary Salisbury (2 yr.)	273-6967
Connie Long (Alt.)	273-6967

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Education, Dan Harper	258-6467
Feedbag, Myra Mumma	542-7443
Horseman's Council, Mike Hartkorn	549-0527
Issues, Paul Evenson	251-2163
Membership & Website, Sandy Evenson	251-2163
Phone, Judy Ward	273-0781
Projects, Dan Tuxbury & Michael Moore	549-2916 370-7561
Publicity, Barbara Parker	544-9480
Recreation Rides, Richard Tamcke & Sandi Treadaway	258-6621 728-3459
Social, Jenna Wright	258-6795
Sponsorship, Anna Tucker	273-3779



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## Lessons Learned, Lessons Passed On

by Dan and Marjorie Harper; Pictures by Mark Wright

Everyone learns from experience, we have concluded, and since Marjorie & I have had enough "experiences," we thought that there



Dan & Marjorie Harper

might be some things we've learned to pass on. Our first do-it-yourself pack trip was a disaster (lots of experiences). Obviously we had a lot to learn. In an effort to shorten the learning curve for others, we convinced Mike & Michelle Hutchins and Mark & Jenna Wright into going on a pack trip with us.

Early in August we all (except for Jenna who had foal duty at home) congregated at the Town Pump in Bonner and trailered to the Middle Fork of Rock Creek trail head. There was time to work on handling stock, fitting saddles and using panniers. Using panniers rather than mantying loads on summer trips can save weight and time. The panniers are easy to load and balance. A top pack can be used for bulky items, but the top pack must be balanced, tightly secured and it is best if the weight is less than 35 pounds. Using light weight back pack type equipment such as tents, sleeping bags & pads, light nesting cook gear, propane stove and small lantern, we can have smaller, lighter loads allowing such luxuries as folding chairs, tables and



Mark Wright on Ramble

fresh food. The food preparation takes some thought and pre-packaging. We try to get proportions just right to minimize leftovers. Meat and frozen veggies are sealed in plastic. Butter and oil go into plastic containers. No glass is allowed and no "big" container of mustard, mayo, etc. We always pack high

lines, hobbles, feed bags and enough horse pellets for at least a pound per animal in the evening. If grazing is sparse, more pellets will be needed. The horses stand better at night after a few pellets. Don't forget easy boots and a vet kit. We soon had the packs ready to load, including Mark's "I can't go without these"—a 50 pound or so bag of peanuts from Costco. For a first trip it is best to go to a camp spot with known conditions. In this case we had seven miles of pretty good trail leading to a meadow with good water and grazing.

For an inexperienced horse at the trail head, a little ground work can be helpful and provide a safer start as Mike and Michelle demonstrated. A good lead horse is one that is well trained and has had experience with ropes, dogs and hikers. The lead horse should be confident and trust in the rider. Usually the lead horse is a dominant horse. It doesn't work well to have a more dominant horse behind the lead horse. This is an advantage



Campsite below W. Pintler Peak

for using mules who never seem to be dominant over the horse.

We rode past Johnson Lake to a lovely meadow below West Pintler Peak, a special place that Don & Claudia Barth shared with us years ago. First the kitchen fly goes up. If the weather is bad the packs can be emptied under the fly. Next the high lines. Choose a good spot away from water to minimize impact. The tents go up next, water is filtered (we use a gravity system) and start thinking about supper, which is usually pre-cooked at home and reheated.

Grazing the horses required some thought. We generally keep half of our stock on the high line and hobble the others to graze. There are times when our entire herd is out hobbled (one horse always wears a loud bell around its neck). In that case we try to be camped between the horses and the trail out and we worry. For Mike, Michelle & Mark,

leading one horse while grazing one and allowing the other horses to graze freely while dragging a lead rope worked. There is no fool proof way to graze horses in the mountains. Our experience here again: it is better to ride a thin horse than to chase a fat one. If you use hobbles, pickets or electric fence, you must first train your horse at home.

Although we pack in a propane stove, a campfire at night provides a venue for more sharing of experiences. The world's problems



Mike & Michelle Hutchins

can be solved around a camp fire although it may be difficult to remember the solution the next morning. The first do-it-yourself pack trip often works best if camp does not have to be moved on a daily basis. We were able to take a day ride to Phyllis Lake and in the process get every one used to steep trails, a confidence builder. When you are in white bark pine country, you are in high country so stop to look at the views.

A ride up Pintler Pass demonstrated the need for a saddle saw or axe to clear trail and for preparation of a safe tree to tie up your horse. On day rides, consider trailing your horse's partner along or at least leave two buddy-horses or mules on the high line at camp.

I seldom need my vet kit or medical kit, but on this trip Mark's mustang developed colic. Fifteen minutes after an intravenous dose of banamine, he was up and eating. My suggestion is to always carry banamine and learn how to give it into a muscle. On this trip we didn't need the easy-boots, but you have to figure out what to do if your horse loses a shoe.

This camp was good: good grass, good water and good crews. Watching mountain goats was a special treat. By the end of the trip we were relaxed and more experienced packers. One last problem was how to pack out about 45 pounds of Mark's peanuts—so much for no leftovers.

We took pictures and left foot prints.



December Book Review



Training on the Trail and Downunder Horsemanship by Clinton Anderson

In Training on the Trail, Clinton Anderson shows practical solutions for trail riding problems. Lessons 1-3 are focused on a cure for spooking, jiggling and grass snatching on the trail. Lessons 4-6 are about "longeing to teach respect" by getting into your horse's brain and asking that he listen to you. Lesson 7 is about suppling your horse on the trail and Lessons 8 and 9 teach conditioning to traffic and water crossings. Lesson 10 is a summary of Anderson's philosophy—gaining respect from your horse. This book is an invaluable tool for any horse owner. It has 48 pages in paperback and is available in MBCH library.

Anderson's book, Downunder Horsemanship, is a hard-cover book totaling 176 pages with 168 color photos. He presents two riders, one Western and one English, and their horses. The riders are not professional and neither horse has done any of the exercises before. This book gives insight from the riders about their difficulties, challenges and rewards as Clinton give them suggestions on training. Each exercise starts with the goal of the exercise, why you want to do the exercise, common handler mistakes, common horse problems, troubleshooting and feedback from the two riders. This book is also a great tool for handling horses and is also available in MBCH's library.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009

NAME \_\_\_\_\_
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

If applying for family membership, name children under 18 and their ages.

ATTENTION!

Notice of Risks Inherent in Equine Activities!! Serious injury or even death can result from equine 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 not limited to: a) the propensity of an equine to behave in ways that may result in injury or harm or the death of persons on or around the equine; b) the unpredictability of an equine's reaction to such things as medication, sound, sudden movements, and unfamiliar objects, persons or other animals; c) hazards, such as surface and subsurface ground conditions; d) collisions with other equines or objects; e) the potential of another participant to not maintain control over the equine or to not act within the person's ability.

Participants in any equine 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 Back Country Horsemen of Missoula 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
Family: \$40/Year New Member
Individual: \$30/Year Renewal

Membership is on a calendar year basis (expires December 31st). Please make payments to Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. Any membership dues received after October 1 will be applied to the following calendar year.

Missoula Veterinary Clinic
Andrew Cross, DVM
3701 Old Highway 93 South
(Behind Pizza Hut)
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 251-2400

(406) 721-5857
ASE CERTIFIED
CULVER'S FOREIGN CAR SERVICE, INC.
2302 McDONALD AVE.
MISSOULA, MT 59801-7305
CHARLES CULVER
President