



FEED BAG



Myra Mumma, Editor

December 2009

President's Message.....



November has had some special days. The first of November daylight savings ended; November 3 was election day; and Veteran's Day was November 11. We all must know someone who served, so thank them for being there. Remember, it is the men and women who serve in our military who keep us safe and are true heroes.

Our chapter elections were held on November 18. I am very humbled that you elected me as your president for a second term. I appreciate your confidence in me and look forward to another productive year. As always, if you have thoughts or comments regarding the functions of our chapter, please give me a call.

To all of you who participated in the many projects and experiences in the backcountry and wilderness this year--you have my heartfelt thanks for your efforts and a job well done. There were 179 members total--some were involved more than once.

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving Day with family and friends.

Have you taken a look at the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula mission statement lately? It is pretty straight forward. Back Country Horsemen are dedicated to preserving the history and enjoyment of horses in the back country and wilderness, maintaining and restoring our nation's forest and grassland resources. These public lands belong to each of us. With use comes a responsibility to care for your public lands and try to leave it better than you found it.

Ask Dan Harper and Don Barth about their moose hunt in the Scapegoat Wilderness. Also, ask Connie Long to show you her elk pictures!

Over a cup of coffee at a general meeting, ask Jess Maynard and Richard Tamcke about their experience on the Rocky Mountain Front. Richard was injured but is on the mend and doing fine. We hope to see him back in the saddle soon. It is amazing what someone will do for a helicopter ride.

"You can see what man made from the seat of a pickup but the only way to see what God made is from the back of a horse."

.....C. M. Russell

Christmas and New Year's is rapidly approaching. I wish you and your family a happy holiday season and all the best for 2010. Until next time -- ride with a smile and make people wonder why you are so happy.

Paul Evenson, President

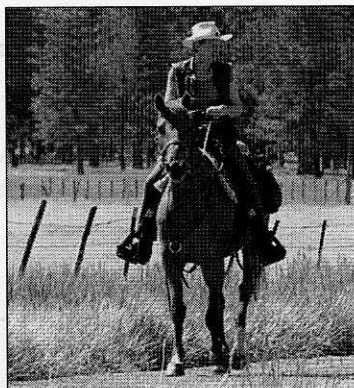
Our First Real Solo Pack Trip into The Bob

.....by Klaus von Stutterheim

Last month we went on our first "gypsy" pack trip into The Bob, five days in the Wilderness by ourselves. It was a thrilling and exhilarating experience. Everything went quite smoothly the first four days, and we were exuberant how well the trip had gone and how competently we had managed for ourselves. That was until the last day when we were reminded that solo pack trips aren't without risks. (If you know about pack trips and The Bob, you can skip the next section).

"The Bob" is the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the largest contiguous Wilderness Area in the U.S. Together with the adjacent Scapegoat Wilderness and the surrounding National Forest it comprises about 3 million acres (roughly 12,000 square kilometers). There are no facilities and very few people in the Wilderness: a few Forest Service rangers and a handful of hikers and riders. No vehicles or motors are allowed, and there is no cell phone coverage. Once you're in the Wilderness you are totally reliant on just yourselves and whatever you brought with you. A pack trip consists of a riding horse for each person, and at least one pack animal for "stuff": tent, food, pellets for the horses, sleeping bags, dog food, etc.

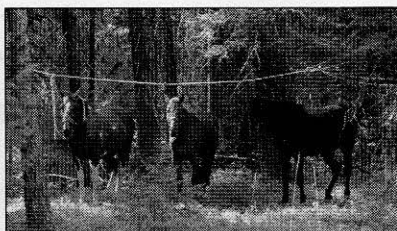
Beate rode Destry as the lead horse, Lance was the packhorse, and I rode Kalif. Keela was the trail dog. She had a great time, running along, ahead and behind the horses, and collapsing dead-tired in our tent at night.



Beate on Destry

When you plan to camp in the Wilderness there are three basic requirements for a

rope tied between two trees, about 7' (2.5 meters) high, to which you tie the horses' halters when they're not grazing. The line has to be tight with no slack, and the knots have to be sure to hold, otherwise



Calm Horses on a Highline

you can have a wreck with horses getting hurt or a run-away pack string. Being stuck without horses in the middle of the Wilderness by yourself is not fun.

Our Trip

Our prior solo pack trips had been three-day trips and close to the trailhead, one or two hours from where people park their horse trailers, trucks and cars. If we couldn't find a place to camp we could always turn around, and if something went wrong, like a horse ran off or somebody got hurt, we could walk out to get help if necessary. This time we were traveling much further into The Bob. At the evening of each day we would have to find a camp site; there could be no turning back. We had prepared ourselves and asked friends about potential camp sites around our intended destinations, and they also knew generally where we were headed. If we hadn't come out after five days they would have alerted the Forest Service.

Going into The Bob for the first time by yourself is exhilarating and scary. Being totally reliant on yourselves gives you a sense of freedom and independence, but you're always aware in the back of your mind that there are risks: risk of injuries, problems with horses, wild animals and most years (though not this year) lightning storms and forest fires, all adding an undercurrent of adrenaline. The Bob is populated with grizzlies, black bears, wolves, mountain lions, coyotes, etc. Actual attacks are rare, but they do happen occasionally. We always carry bear spray, which is a pepper spray that severely stings eyes and nose. You hope the wind isn't blowing at you if you have to use it. Our ultimate destination was the Danaher Valley, my favorite part of The Bob, which I have ridden many times on a horse

winds through wetlands, prairie, forest, and grasslands. Eight years ago while riding that trail on Bandit the essential pieces of Bobitis (a disease that effects many of us—an addictive preoccupation with The Bob.)

The First Three Days: No Problem!

The first leg of our trip went about 15 miles (20 kilometers) from the Northfork Trailhead to Dwight Creek, where we quickly found a camp site. Some of the trail is scary; for part of the way it is just wide enough for the horses' feet, and it hangs high on the side of a cliff. If anything goes wrong, you are in big trouble. Our packs consisted of two canvas bags ("panniers") strapped on either side of Lance which have to be evenly balanced, and a top pack on his back. Our top pack kept sliding and we had to re-arrange it four times until it was steady. Fortunately, it held during the trickiest parts of the trail. On our second day we continued into the Danaher Valley and camped for two days at a charming camp site on Bar Creek, where we had stayed years ago. There was plenty of feed, sturdy trees, and the creek was right at the camp site with a nice waterhole. We woke up every morning to great weather, watching the sun come up, surrounded by mountains which reflected the early sunlight. It was incredibly beautiful! On our third day we stayed at Bar Creek and took a day ride to Camp Creek and back, about 18 miles. We traveled through breathtaking countryside and marveled at the beauty and solitude of The Bob. The next morning we packed our gear and headed back, planning to camp that night at the same spot at Dwight Creek as on the way out. We were happy and congratulated ourselves how smoothly everything had gone. All of which goes to prove that, as we say in the Old Country, that you "shouldn't praise the day before the evening is over."

That Fateful Last Night Part I: Trouble on the Highline

When we got to Dwight Creek another group was camped near "our" spot, a commercial outfit called "Paws Up." They were building an enormous hunting camp, and their horses and mules were grazing freely. We were afraid of our horses getting mixed up with their herd and perhaps taking off with them, so we started to look for another camp site and finally found one. It was obvious that it had been a much-used camp years ago, maybe even somebody's hunting camp, but now many of the trees had died, and we had a hard

Destry graze. In his usual fashion Destry ran around, kicking exuberantly, ran off for a while, and then came back a little later followed by two mules he had apparently befriended! Destry is very social. Keela and Beate chased the mules off, and we realized that the other camp's stock was grazing close to where we had settled. I knew this would be a restless night. Then we went on a 20-minute walk to see if we could find another camp site, but we couldn't. When we returned everything looked good, and we started unpacking our gear.

Suddenly there was a commotion on the highline. Lance had finished eating and wanted to get next to his buddy, Destry, on the highline. He had tried to push Kalif aside and somehow had got caught in Kalif's halter rope. Both Kalif and Lance were on the ground. The highline was still tied to the trees, but pulled down to the ground and wound tightly around Lance's hind legs, strangling his legs. Lance was thrashing in panic, and Kalif was biting him to get him away from him, but neither could move. It was a frightening scene — every horse owner's blackest nightmare! I ran over with my trusty Leatherman, the cowboy's essential tool, and cut the highline. The ropes went slack and Kalif got up, but Lance was still lying on the ground. There were cuts on his

It was a frightening scene — every horse owner's blackest nightmare!

legs and blood. My heart sank: Lance might have broken his legs, in which case he couldn't walk. This was a horse we loved, he had been our faithful companion, especially Beate's, for many years; he was well-trained and part of our herd. I would have to shoot him; you can't let him lie there to die slowly and be eaten alive by predators. Then once you have a dead horse on the ground, you have to leave the camp site and find another camp, because it wouldn't be long before the bears would arrive, attracted by the smell. It was getting late, just before dark. A wave of panic went through me. Suddenly Lance got up, and I heaved a sigh of relief. But he stood on only three legs, pulling one up. "Oh, no," I thought, "the leg is broken." Then Lance put weight on that leg too and stood on four legs! I was relieved beyond description. We walked him around, and he seemed okay. We didn't know yet whether he could carry a load, but at worst we could leave our gear behind and walk him out. Fortunately this was our last camp. It turned out that the cuts were not that deep and Beate doctored them. We were relieved but completely frazzled. This is how close you can come to total

That Fateful Last Night Part II: Kalif Runs Off

We finished putting up our camp in the dark and let Kalif out to eat, and as always, Kalif grazed around near the campsite when suddenly something spooked him, and he ran off. I wasn't concerned until I realized that I couldn't hear his bell anymore. We always put a bell on the horse that is grazing, so we can find him if he ventures too far. Kalif had never been out of earshot before, and given everything that had happened and the fact that there was other stock around, I got worried. Beate tried to calm me down, saying that he would likely return soon. She might have been right, but I was too nervous. I didn't want to lose the horse I loved so much. So with Keela at our side, we started to walk in the direction he had run. Suddenly I heard a bell; I was about to relax when I realized that *it wasn't Kalif's bell!* Now I was really nervous. Had he gotten mixed up with the other herd? We kept walking and suddenly Kalif's bell rang out. We walked towards the sound, and there he was, grazing peacefully. We chased him back in the direction of our camp and thought that adventure was over. Then we realized that Keela had

disappeared! It was pitch dark, we only had flashlights and there was no sight of her. Any-

thing could have happened to her. We turned around, frantically calling her and after a tense couple of minutes she suddenly ran up to us. Another sigh of relief! Now we were ready to go back to our camp, but *where was it?* We had been moving around so much that we had lost orientation, and we had left camp in a hurry, no bear spray, no gun, nothing. The decision in which direction to walk now was critical. If we walked away from the camp we could easily get lost in the Wilderness. We were defenseless, and it was getting cold. I had a vague idea where our camp might be and was willing to gamble on it. Beate said to Keela, "Go home," and Keela ran ahead of us in the direction where I thought the camp was. Two scary minutes later we saw our campfire! We had lived through quite a half hour: lost a horse, found the horse, lost the dog, found the dog, lost the camp and found the camp! We were drained! We put up a separate highline for Kalif—no more free grazing. We crawled into our sleeping bags and went to sleep. I woke every two hours worried about the horses, went out and checked the highline. Everything was calm and quiet.



Keela

fast and talked about what a scary day yesterday had been, and how grateful we were that none of the things that *could* have happened, did. We packed our gear at about noon, and we were 15 minutes away from leaving when Keela emitted a deep-chested angry growl that I had never heard from her before. It could mean only one thing: *major threat!* Beate looked up, and there on the other side of the creek, 30 feet (10 meters) away from her was a huge grizzly looking at her.

Beate called out: "Klaus! Bear!!" I grabbed the bear spray and rushed over. At the same time Keela started to bark aggressively. The grizzly turned around and ran off, Keela in pursuit of a bear six times her size! We yelled frantically for her to come back. One swat of the bear's claws and Keela would be history. She finally came back, **extremely** pleased with herself. We loaded up the rest of our stuff and left as quickly as we could. We had a smooth ride out. It was quite an adventure! Our friends said we were lucky that all of this happened on the last day; otherwise we would not have had such a fun time. But all is well that ends well, and we can't wait for our next trip in the spring!

Epilogue (1)

A week ago Kalif and I were out on a trail ride with Keela in tow. Suddenly Kalif spooked wildly, jumped and started to run off frantically. I had the reins firmly in hand and managed to stop him. When I looked back to see what was so very scary, I saw a bear in the brush! He was partially hidden but looked like a grizzly. I wasn't really afraid: bears hardly ever attack riders, unless you get between a sow and her cubs. I tried to remember everything I had learned about grizzly encounters: retreat slowly so not to incite pursuit and avoid eye contact. Suddenly Keela noticed the bear and started to bark furiously. I thought: "Now we're in big trouble!" Right here I have to pause the

How can you tell whether it's a grizzly or a black bear chasing you?" The answer: "If it's a black bear, he'll climb up after you. If it's a grizzly, he'll rip out the tree and shake you down." (i.e. grizzlies don't climb). Fortunately, it turned out to be a black bear. He scrambled up the tree to get away from this fierce, barking monster! I had a hard time getting Keela to let go of her prey and continue on the ride. At this point she had come to think of herself as quite the bear wrangler! Kalif was full of adrenaline and took off like a bat out of hell when I gave him the reins. It was fun to see how fast that horse can actually run.

Epilogue (2)

Yesterday a friend told us the following story: There was a bear encounter at Double Arrow, a local development of several hundred acres with lot sizes from 2-5 acres and plenty of trees and brush. A woman and her dog, an Australian Ridgeback, ran into a grizzly. The grizzly charged, and the dog who was defending his mistress, got mauled. He survived after getting sown up, 125 stitches. We're not sure what caused the attack: perhaps the grizzly attacked when he felt challenged by the dog, perhaps the grizzly attacked first. When I heard the story and thought back about our last day in The Bob, I got scared for Keela in retrospect. If there had not been a creek between her and the bear, she might not be alive today.

Just so you know, things are bit safer where we live. It's all grassland and you can see far away. Grizzlies can't hide, and they don't live on pastures. Everybody around here is very careful about not leaving garbage out; garbage is the main reason why bears become attracted to human habitations. But there are plenty of bears living right around us in the woods: blackbears and grizzlies.

There's another postscript to the story: After being back in New York on a walk in Union Square, Beate and Keela encountered a huge dog, possibly an Akita, who was big and dark and looked a bit like a bear. Keela, usually a social and playful dog, started to growl and bark furiously and lunged after him in full attack mode; Beate could barely hold her!

And a footnote from Klaus: The explanation for "Bobitis" is <http://kvs.org/bobitis.htm>. At the bottom of the page is our Bobitis Clock. It ticks down to the moment when we leave for Montana next year! This story was inspired by hanging out with all of you at Back Country Horsemen of Missoula.



**Don't miss Back Country Horsemen of
Missoula's Annual
MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP
February 27, 2010
Lolo Community Center, Lolo
Potluck Dinner
Music & Fun!**

THE LIGHTER SIDE - Horse Terminology

.....submitted by Gloria Curdy

Hock - the financial condition of all horse owners.

Stall - what your trailer rig does at rush hour in an unfamiliar city on the way to a big horse show.

A bit - what you have left in your pocket after you've been to your favorite tack shop.

Fence - a decorative structure built to provide your horse with something to chew on.

Horse auction - what you think of having after your horse bucks you off.

Pinto - a green coat pattern found on freshly washed light-colored horses left unattended for 2 minutes in a pasture.

Well-mannered - a horse that hasn't stepped on, bitten or kicked any human for a week.

Rasp - an abrasive metal tool used to remove excess skin from one's knuckles.

Lunging - popular training method in which a horse exercises the human by spinning them in circles until dizzy.

Gallop - customary gait a horse chooses when returning back to the barn.

Nicely started - the horse lunges but there is not enough health insurance in the world to even think about riding him.

Colic - gastrointestinal distress in people after eating food at horse fairs and shows.

Easy to load - only takes 3 hours, 4 men, a 50 lb. bag of oats, and a tractor with a loader.

Easy to catch - in a 10 x 10 stall, that is.

Endurance ride - end result when your horse spooks and runs away with you.

Hobbles - walking gait of a human after their foot has been stepped on by a horse.

Feed - expensive substance used to manufacture manure.

Dog house - what you are in when you spend too much money on grooming supplies and pretty halters.

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

Invite You to Join their 2009 Holiday Celebration



See Old Friends
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Great Stories

Entertainment: Shane Clouse Singer/songwriter Shane Clouse, a native and resident of Missoula, Montana, began his performing career singing his heart out to his parents and seven siblings on the fireplace hearth of the family's farm house. Soon after, Shane began his performing arts career studying singing, dancing, acting, playing guitar, and won his first singing competition at the age of five. At eighteen Shane performed for over 25,000 people in Kansas City, MO and from that day forward was driven to pursue his career as a performing artist. Eventually Shane performed lead roles in several musicals including *Grease*, *Into the Woods*, and *Oklahoma*. In 2003 Shane finished his first CD, "Montana on My Mind", in Nashville, TN. The song "Finer Things" from that album was featured on the nationally syndicated Lia Show. Additionally, in 2005 Shane Clouse and his band *Stomping Ground* were chosen as "Montana's Best Country Act" by winning the state Colgate Country Showdown and placing at the Western United States regional level. In 2007 Shane was also chosen "Best Male Actor" by the readers of the Missoula Independent and in June, 2008, Shane Clouse and Stomping Ground released their CD "Midnight on the Highway".

A big *Thank You* to the Party Committee: Pat Culver, John Favro, Lana Hamilton, Mike & Michele Hutchins, Barbara Koepke, Connie Long, Alan Meyers, Lola Mae LeProwse, Gary Salisbury, Nancy Stoverud, and Diane Tidwell who is committee chairperson. Decorating begins at 8:00 a.m. on the 12th and helpers are welcome. Susan Favro created the raffle tickets. Thank her by visiting her business website: <http://stores.heathyasahorse.net>.

December 12, 2009

Potluck Dinner

Beverages Courtesy BCH of Missoula

6:00 p.m.

Quality Inn

3803 Brooks St.

RAFFLE

Special items will be raffled at the party to fund a Club scholarship to the 48th annual Packing Class taught by Smoke Elser beginning January 24, 2010. This scholarship is offered to high school juniors and seniors, so if you know a junior or senior high school student who might be interested in applying for this scholarship, please call Paul for a copy of this information letter and application form—deadline is December 31st. The main goal is to provide an opportunity to gain enough experience to safely enjoy packing and riding horses and mules in the back country. Chairperson: Gloria Curdy.

Raffle tickets will be one for \$5.00 and three for \$10.00. Need not be present to win. For tickets ??? Great prizes include first prize—a sterling silver running horses necklace donated by Nancy Stoverud, second prize—a hand crafted queen size quilt with horse motif donated by Crazy Horse Consignment and third

2010 New Officers

The general membership voted in the following officers for 2010: Paul Evenson, President; Mark Wright, Vice-President; Jenna Wright, Secretary and Connie Long, Treasurer.

New Board of Directors elected to two-year terms are Ken Bransby, Barbara Koepke and Richard Tamcke. Current Board of Directors for one more year are: Ken Brown, Alan Meyers and Mack Long. Diane Tidwell was elected to serve a one-year term.

Gary Salisbury was voted in as Alternate State Director and Smoke Elser was elected as a two-year State Director.

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

Congratulations to **Smoke Elser** who received the Montana Wilderness Association's Brass Lantern Award, an honor given to volunteers for their leadership and for taking action that promotes wilderness, quiet trails, and responsible management of our public lands by managing agencies.

Jon McBride was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award in September for over 4000 hours of volunteer work on National Forest System trails in seven regions of the agency. The National Smokejumpers Assn. Trail Maintenance program led by McBride accomplished 130 projects with over 1000 NSA volunteers including improving trails, renovating guard stations and lookouts,

and maintaining and building corrals and fences over the past eleven years.

Rocky Mountain Rider magazine has gone online with their issues. See www.rockymountainrider.com. They are also soliciting favorite family horse pictures for their magazine.

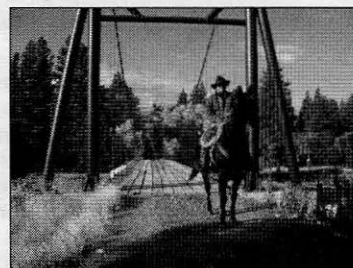
Horse Photo Contest: Don't forget that we're having a photo contest with members and their first horse, or just any early horse. And we'd also like to have a more recent picture to display side-by-side for an Expo poster. Send your pictures to Michele Hutchins or Myra Mumma.

From Lana Hamilton: On Sunday mornings from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., KVGQ News at 1290 AM Radio features a wide range of horse topics by various authors and trainers. Some good information!

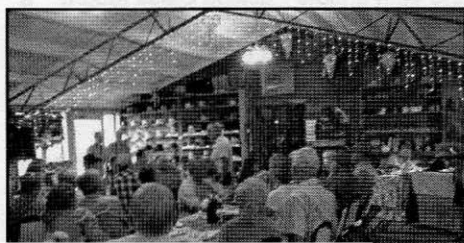
Barbara Koepke submitted an article from the American Hiking Society that reports a record number of National Trails Day events—a 47% increase in registered events from 2008 to 2009. More than 150,000 volunteers maintained 1,711 miles of trail estimated at 177,950 hours of labor, worth an estimated \$3.6 million. There were 643 trail work projects reported. Representatives of hikers, bikers, paddlers, trail runners, horseback riders birders, etc. came out across the country to support NTD. Barbara is the chairperson for BCH of Missoula's National Trails Day event at Blue Mountain Trailhead every year. Mark next year's celebration on your calendar—June 5th!

In Memory of Fred Benefiel

Missoula Back Country Horsemen lost a dear member on October 12th. He had been battling a cancerous brain tumor for 22 months. Fred served in the Marine Corps for six years in the Sixth Rifle Company. He was a journey-man electrician for 35 years. He loved his family, the outdoors and especially loved horses and roping. A few months into his illness Gary Salisbury organized a roping event as a fundraiser for Fred's medical expenses. Let us not forget to stay in touch with his wife, Mary, and his two daughters, Kim and Michele. *Photos by Connie Long*



.....**From Barb Parker:** "One of the gifts—multiple gifts God has given me are friends. I wish to extent heartfelt gratitude for all the cards, visits and expression of concern, the stationary bike that aided in my recovery and the funds that helped meet my medical expenses. May you all be as richly blessed as I have been."



2009 AUGUST POTLUCK Holt Museum, Lolo

Bill Holt, standing, is welcoming members to the Holt Heritage Museum to for their August Potluck. Bill and Ramona were so warm and gracious. The Museum was fascinating and one needed more time to visit the exhibits. We have been invited back there in August 2010 as well! The food was great—we're famous for our potlucks. The cooks,

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Burnt Cabin Hay Shelter

.....by Paul Evenson

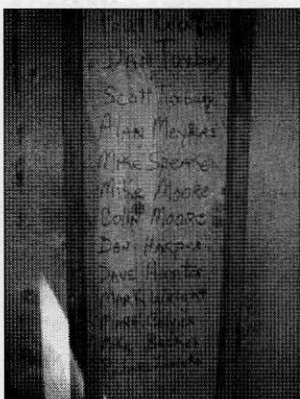
The idea for a hay shelter at Burnt Cabin was conceived in June 2008 when Alan Meyers and Mike Speake packed 16 bales of hay to the cabin and found there was no room to store them as previously inside the cabin. They had to stack the hay by the corral and cover it with a plastic tarp. Burnt Cabin is eight miles by trail up Monture Creek on the Seeley Lake Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest.

We talked with District Ranger Tim Love and Jim Blackburn. We told them what we felt was needed at Burnt Cabin and they agreed and gave us the green light to proceed. Under guidance from Chapter project leaders, Mike Moore and Dan Tuxbury, we started acquiring materials for the hay shelter. We were able to get much of the material from Kerby Mathew of the Historic Preservation Crew. With the materials from the preservation crew and other donated materials there was very little that had to be purchased.

Mike Speak was the leader of this project. He made the plan, cut all of the 2x4's to length and ripped the plywood to 16-inch widths. Everything was cut and marked and ready to be erected. The loads were banded—one 16-inch piece of plywood on top and bottom and 2x4's sandwiched in the middle. The loads were between 85 to 90 pounds per side. The largest load was the tin roofing at 105 pounds per side. The total weight of the materials was about 3,000 pounds.

The packing project began June 22, 2009. The Forest Service Region One pack string was at Monture Creek to help. Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengally are the Regional string packers. This group was able to get all but two loads to the site. One June 25, Alan Meyers, Dan Tuxbury, Scott Tuxbury and Mike Speake packed in the remaining loads and started erecting the shelter. The work progressed at a rapid pace.

The rest of the crew showed up on June 26 and worked on trail maintenance to Hahn Pass and Limestone Pass. The crew wasn't able to get all the way to Limestone Pass because of snow and snow slides in the area.

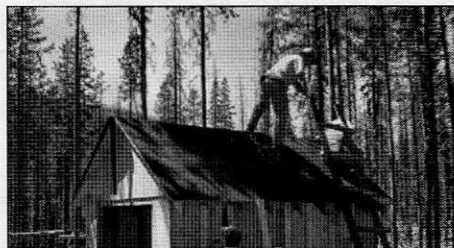
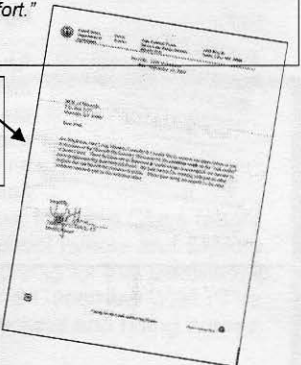


The crew identified some items that needed attention in and on the cabin. We are planning additional work on the cabin as a project in 2010. If you'd like to spend a weekend in the Monture Creek drainage, contact our project leaders and get your name on the list.

I am so proud and pleased with the members of our Chapter who worked on this project, made it successful, and got it done!

From Timothy G. Love, District Ranger, Seeley Lake Ranger District: "Jim Blackburn, Jake Long, Shannon Connolly and I would like to express our appreciation to you and members of the Missoula Backcountry Horsemen for the excellent work on the "tack Shelter" at Burnt Cabin. These facilities are an important and useful means to accomplish our mission to serve people enjoying their National Forests. We look forward to working with you on other projects that can benefit the resources and public. Please pass along our regard to the other members who took part in this volunteer effort."

Sweat, camaraderie, good meals, campfire, tall stories and names left behind at Burnt Cabin. Paul Evenson, Dan Tuxbury, Scott Tuxbury, Alan Meyers, Mike Speake, Mike Moore, Colin Moore, Dan Harper, Dave Hunter, Mark Wright, Mark Colyer, Mike Beckel, Richard Tamcke



DATES TO REMEMBER, 2009-2010**MEETINGS**

December 2	Christmas Party Committee, FW&P, 5:30
December 2	MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30
December 12	State Board Meeting, Quality Inn at 10:00, All Welcome
January 6	MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30
January 20	MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00
February 3	MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30
March 3	MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30
March 17	MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00
March 26-28	State BCH Convention, Bozeman

CLINICS

January 30	CPR/First Aid Classes, FW&P, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
To Be Det.	Saw Training
April 3	Spring Tune-up for Human & Horse w/Dutch Oven Lunch, Gary Salisbury/Caroline Bauer
April 17	Defensive Horsemanship, Harper Arena

WORK PROJECTS

June 25-27	Burnt Cabin Project
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RECREATION RIDES

To Be Det.	We need leaders and ride details!!
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EDUCATION PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY

May 22	Horse Expo, Missoula Equestrian Park
June 5	National Trails Day, Blue Mountain Trailhead

SOCIALS

December 12	Christmas Party
February 27	Membership Roundup, Lolo Community Ctr.
June 20	Fathers Day Steak Ride
August 20	August Potluck, Holt Museum
September 15	Ice Cream Social before General Meeting, 6:00, FW&P

2009 OFFICERS

Pres. Paul Evenson	251-2163
Vice-Pres. Mark Wright	258-6795
Sec'y. Jenna Wright	258-6795
Treas. Barbara Koepke	626-4351

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ken Brown, 2 Yr.	721-3357
Mike Chandler, 1 Yr.	549-7639
Mack Long, 2 Yr.	543-0528
Alan Meyers, 2 Yr.	721-2211
Richard Tamcke 1 Yr.	258-6621
Connie Long, Past-Pres.	543-0528

STATE DIRECTORS

Connie Long, 2 Yr.	543-0528
Gary Salisbury (1 yr.)	273-6967
Smoke Elser, Alternate	549-2820

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education, Dan Harper	258-6467
Feedbag, Myra Mumma	542-7443
Horseman's Council, Mike Hartkom	549-9527
Issues, Paul Evenson	251-2163
Membership & Website, Sandy Evenson	251-2163
Phone, Judy Ward	273-0781
Projects, Dan Tuxbury & Michael Moore	883-9423 370-7549
Publicity, Barbara Parker & Alan Meyers	544-9480 360-2121
Recreation Rides, Richard Tamcke & Sandi Treadaway	258-6621 728-3459
Social, Lana Hamilton, Nancy Stoverud, Diane Tidwell	273-0781
Sponsorship, Anna Tucker & Alan Meyers	273-3779 360-2121

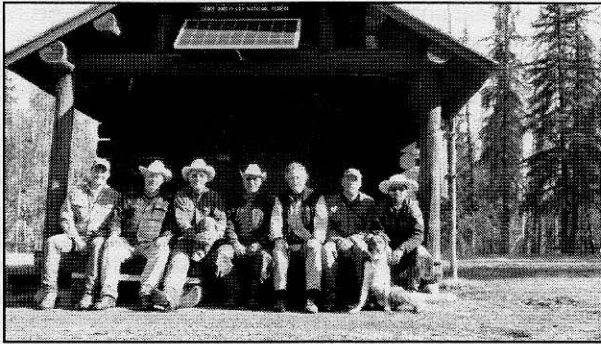
Old West Autumn Fest

This third annual family event was held on September 12 this year at Opportunity Ranch in Frenchtown with activities such as pumpkin picking, hayrides, cider making games and a packing demonstration by Back Country Horsemen of Missoula. For that effort, the Club received a thank you letter signed by Jack Chambers, CEO and Tim Furey, Director of Development.

"Unbelievable is the only way to describe the 3rd Annual Old West Autumn Fest. We are projecting that there were between 3 and 4,000 people that attended. Approximately two-thirds of those visiting the ranch were children 12 and younger. Thank you so much for all that you did to make the event such a huge success this year. Through your efforts we have turned the Old West Autumn Fest into an event that is not only FUN but it provides much needed funding to Opportunity Resources. That funding assists us in providing services 24/7 to more than 400 individuals with disabilities."

President Paul's Word Trivia

In the September issue, Paul Evenson challenged members to find the meaning to the word "uxorious." Sara Wilson, Lola Mae LeProwse, Richard Tamcke and Barbara Koepke all came up with the meaning: "great fondness for a wife." So Paul treated them all to pie, ice cream and coffee at the River City Grill in Bonner.



Cabin Creek Project

.....by Barry Hicks

May 22, 2009 found several old smokejumpers at the Mortimer Gulch Trailhead which goes into the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Conspicuously absent were George Weldon MSO, George Johnson MSO, Tim Pfahler Helicopter Pilot, Tom Zimmerman Fire Director, and Dale Bosworth former Chief of the Forest Service. As is the case with excellent work avoiders they all had very good excuses for not showing up when the work is to be done. They ranged from a Navy guy having to pin wings on an Air Force Academy grad (aka tender hammy from two years ago), and going to two law school graduations two weeks in a row (aka, unable to find anyone else who knew how to warm Oly appropriately). There were two excuses claiming Dickle issues and singed eyebrows.

The guys who actually showed up were of course guys who never learned how to avoid work. They included Jerry Williams-Redmond 72, Nels Jensen-MSO 62, Norm Kamrud-MSO 64, Paul Evenson-MSO 73 (injured so did not travel with team), Barry Hicks-MSO 64, Kibb Mills Rocky Mtn RD historic preservation specialist, Ian Bardwell Rocky Mtn RD historic preservation specialist, and Kyle Inabnit Assistant FMO Rocky Mtn RD. Arriving later but leaving early to make up for it was Brad McBratney Grangeville 82.

This project was unusual in that the volunteers were outnumbered by really dedicated young employees. This was refreshing for us old guys. Made us feel good that the Forest Service is still able to attract good young folks in spite of the fact that most of the good, smart old people have retired.

The project consisted of taking off the old shakes and replacing them with new shakes and improving on some previous mistakes in application. Thanks to having Hicks along this year there were new mistakes in application to make up for those removed.

This may have been Kamrud's last year to attend as an employee. Next year he will be a rookie volunteer. My guess is he will retain his cook role. It looks like the Redmond kid is finally developing a work ethic. A couple more years of this and he likely will want to take on a leadership role.

We are looking forward to having the missing team members back next year to have a big project.

.....*The National Smokejumper Association's Art Jukkala Trail Maintenance Program has accomplished 130 projects with over 1000 NSA volunteers including improving trails, renovating guard stations and lookouts, and maintaining and building corrals and fences over the past eleven years. This highly successful program involves coordinating with individual forests and foundations, planning and organizing crews, assuring volunteers meet Forest Service standards in their work and even planning their menus and arranging to feed groups of volunteers.*



Photo Credit: Jan Rach

Horse Training: Gary Salisbury Style

By the Editor

Gary Salisbury led a Saturday, August 29th, ride to Larry Creek in the Bitterroot Mountains. He used a young gelding named Rowdy partway and then changed out to Jazzy—two young geldings he's working with. Larry Creek is ideal for working colts because it has diverse obstacles, like wooden bridges, creek crossings, old canals with steep banks to negotiate. Gary is able to work two horses on one ride because Caroline will pony the extra horse with her horse Buddy, who was well-trained by Gary because he wants to make certain Caroline has the most trustworthy horse he can produce. The day was hazy with smoke from the Kootenai Creek fire. The parking lot was full of rigs and trailers but the group only saw two other riders on the loop trail of about six miles.

Others riders were: Mark Wright on Trilly, Jenna Wright on Ramble, Dennis Rach on Ringo, Jan Rach on Whitney, Barb Koepke on Dancer, Mike Hutchins on Jake and Michele was riding Deja.

Gary trained some of the horses on this ride. One student says of him, "Gary studies what a horse is thinking as much as what the student is thinking." He and Caroline both agree.

This article was meant to be about the Larry Creek ride and how Gary helped the riders and horses through obstacles like creeks and bridges. However, only a few minutes into the interview the conversation became a world away from Larry Creek and into the world of a horse trainer known for his success with problem horses.

Gary started breaking horses on a ranch in the "rough string" at age 15. He spent 15 years at it—back in the olden days when we dominated a horse with control, sometimes harsh control. He took six years off just to watch horses. He'd go sit in the pasture just to observe. He saw what many of us would see if we really look. Constant movement. The movement begins with one

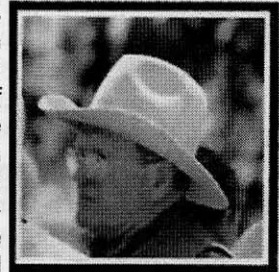
not only eats and drinks where and when she wants, she keeps an eye out for predators and makes the decision on speed and direction the herd needs to flee. Horses have survived for millions of years with this behavior. Where do humans fit into this hierarchy? If we are to gain the respect and trust of a 1200 pound animal, we must be the boss. But not by dominating. We have to assert ourselves to gain and keep respect; otherwise we own a horse that is dangerous and can't be trusted on the ground and certainly not under saddle. When we have earned the

"Listen to your horse. He's talking to you. And don't ever stop listening to him."

respect and trust, like the lead mare, we have developed a relationship so we can communicate with the horse. Gary's advice is "Remember you're not a passenger. You are the driver!

Respect and trust equal communication and support." How do you start gaining trust and support? Through basic exercises of backing, releasing the hindquarters, disengaging the front end, leading, and by grooming your horse.

Caroline is very supportive of Gary's training. She wishes he had a bigger audience than locally because his way with horses is such a gift. A gift of "thinking like a horse" that she feels should be shared with more people than just locally. Gary's mom must have recognized that gift years ago. She used to say, "If you ever need Gary, just whinny like a horse!"



Gary's brother, Max, trains reining horses on the West Coast and won the Western Region Reining in 1996. The two brothers help each other, although they both recognize that working with trail horses and problem horses is totally different than training a reining horse.

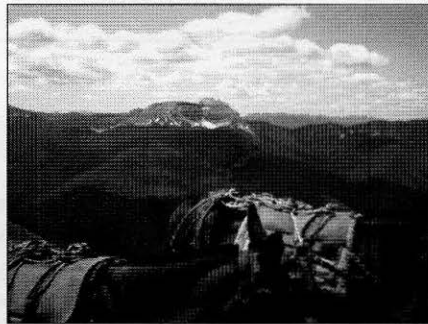
Gary appreciates students who do their homework. For example, he gave BCH of Missoula member Sandy Brosious instruction on how to hold your hands consistently while riding—such as the level of the rein and how tight a rein. Sandy tied ropes around a table leg at home and practiced using reins consistently. This sends clear cues to avoid confusing the animal because when he gets confused and frustrated *about anything*, he reverts back to the only behavior he knows—fight or flight.

If Gary could give horse owners one motto it would be: "Listen to your horse. He's talking to you. And don't ever stop listening to him."

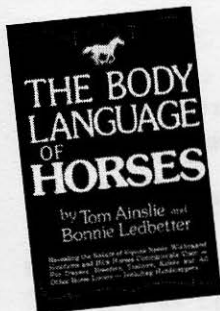
Gary and Caroline will host a Spring Tuneup/Dutch Oven Potluck for the Club on April 3rd at their place. It will be a real opportunity to watch a trainer "think like a horse."

Lookout Resupply Trip Summer 2010?

Are you ready for a lookout resupply trip into the Bob Marshall next summer with Paul Evenson? You can stay in cabins that Bob Marshall slept in, see some wonderful country and maybe understand why Bob Marshall wanted to save it for us. All are great trips as Dan Tuxbury, Mike Speake or Alan Meyers can attest to. Paul would love to have more folks come on the trips because he loves with he's doing and would love to share the experiences with others. So think about it, guys and gals! And below are some pictures to entice you.



Alan Meyers on far left. Photos provided by Paul Evenson.



BOOK REVIEW

Horses communicate with remarkable accuracy in a language of posture, gesture and sound. They express their needs, wishes and emotions to each other and to the rare human being who understands them. After reading this book, you will understand their language better. This book has suggestions to help you reassure your horse better, educate a foal and work through communication problems that arise. The authors also help humans understand what horses are thinking and feeling. Check the book out of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula Library. Call Myra, 542-7443.

Meeting Programs

MBCH has had some great programs at the general meetings, thanks to our Vice-President, Mark Wright. September 16th meeting during the Ice Cream Social, Chuck Bartlebaugh gave a presentation on the use of bear spray and even provided a stuffed grizzly bear! Pictured below is Jan Rach practicing her aim, and Lola Mae LeProwse is giving the griz a hug.



On October 21, Dr. Angela Langer, DVM, gave an excellent power point presentation on How to Keep Your Horse Healthy, complete with images of those gory critters that live or can live in our horses' stomachs! We all learned a lot from the presentation.

November's general meeting program was a talk by Ron Rude, a retired English teacher from Plains, who is the President of the Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen chapter. He authored "*The Backyard Horseman*" which he talked about. This