



# FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

June 2006

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

June 3 National Trails Day—Blue Mountain  
 June 18 Father's Day Steak Ride  
 June 21 BCHM Board Meeting 6:30 FW&P  
 June 21 Monthly BCHM Meeting 7:30 FW&P  
 July 18-22 Northfork of the Blackfoot Edu. Trip  
 Aug. 16 Annual Potluck 6:30 at Equestrian Park

## From the President's Pen.....

The 14th annual National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3. This year's theme is "Experience Your Outdoors." Blue Mountain Trail is our official National Trails Day project. We hope to encourage folks in the community to get out and enjoy an area that we're so lucky to have in our backyard. We'll have lots of exhibits, demonstrations and work projects organized by Paul Evenson, Keith Guschausky and Barbara Koepke. Please call one of them to offer your help with this worthwhile project.

We're excited about this year's Father's Day Steak Ride. Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard on this event. We need all the help we can get, so don't be bashful about stepping up, whether you can help with the meal and the ride, or whether you can just send along a dessert--all is appreciated.

The Defensive Horse Safety Course was held at Dan and Marge Harper's place on April 22nd. About 20 people attended the course. This eight-hour course is required for all employees and volunteers who work with stock on the National Forests with a mandatory four-hour refresher course every three years. Thanks to Paul Evenson and those who helped him organize the training and thanks to the Harpers' for hosting us.

At the May general meeting, we learned from Mark Wright that he has gotten a clean bill of health--for which we are mighty grateful. We know that all those thoughts and prayers helped him and his family.

Following is a list of projects for this season. Boy, it makes me tired just looking at it! I continue to be amazed at what Back Country Horsemen do for the agencies to help keep up with the maintenance of our back country and also for the public so they can continue to enjoy this great land we live in. Just be safe!

## 2006 Projects

May 25	Stuart Peak
June 3	National Trails Day--Blue Mountain
June 26-29	Resupply Trail Crew
July 10-14	Webb Lake (FW&P)
July 10-13	Resupply
July 24-27	Resupply
August 7-10	Resupply
August 14-18	Meadow Creek/Lake (FW&P)
August 21-24	Resupply
August 21-25	Burnt Cabin/Monture Lakes (FW&P)
Sept. 4-7	Resupply
Sept. 18-21	Resupply



Mack and Connie Long will again be taking fish biologists into the Great Burn and will let us know the dates. During June, July, August and September, Paul Evenson (251-2163) will be running resupply trips for the East Side. Kirk Sybrandt (273-0277) runs the FW&P trips. Keith Guschausky (543-7957) runs the rest. The above dates are subject to change. We are ALWAYS looking for help, extra riding horses and extra packing stock to accomplish these projects! Call one of us!



**INVITATION TO MISSOULA  
BCH MEMBERS  
NORTHFORK OF THE  
BLACKFOOT TRIPS  
July 18, 19 and 20, 2006  
July 20, 21 and 22, 2006**

These trips are open to any Missoula BCH member who is interested in participating in an educational/work trip into the Scapegoat Wilderness. The purpose of these short trips is to give new members, or those with limited experience, an opportunity to ride into the Scapegoat and start putting your riding, packing and camping skills to work.

We will meet at the North Fork Trailhead on the afternoon of July 18. Before supper, we will make a swing through the trailhead and do a general cleanup of the area. We will then have supper and spend the night at the trailhead. On the morning of the 19th, we will load up and head for camp about 7 miles in. Throughout the day we will do some general trailwork and learn the history of the area. If time allows, we will do a short ride to the North Fork Falls as well. After breakfast and breaking camp on the 20th, we will load up and work our way back to the North Fork trailhead. The second trip will meet the afternoon of the 20th at the North Fork of the Blackfoot and will be a duplicate of the first trip.

Signups for each trip will start at the March 15, 2006 BCH monthly meeting. Maximum group size is 15 people. Each person will need to supply their own tent, sleeping bag, riding horse and personal items. We will divide up the costs of hay and food. Contact Connie or Mack Long at 626-5539 if you have questions. 🐾

Thanks, Lola Mae, for renewing old sponsorships and for obtaining new ones. Please thank her for her efforts and thank our sponsors for their support. 🐾

The following article appeared in the May 2006 issue of "Rocky Mountain Rider."

*Washington Backcountry Horsemen Resolves to Oppose Wilderness*

*"The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) would like to announce an adopted resolution to oppose expansions of existing wilderness areas, proposed new wilderness areas and any roadless areas.*

*We maintain in the strongest terms that any further expansion of these areas is uncalled for, ill-advised, counterproductive and prevents access to horsemen and motorized recreation groups. The United States Forest Service, now and for the foreseeable future, lacks the funding and resources to maintain the current trails by using crosscut saws, instead of chainsaws, in the huge designated wilderness areas already established."*

In response, the following article was written per the direction of the Montana BCH State Board to be printed by the Rocky Mountain Rider. Co-writers are Smoke Elser, Mike Chandler, and Ken Ausk.

**Back Country Horsemen of America and Montana Support Wilderness**

Back Country Horsemen of America is made up of state BCH organizations who share a common interest – recreational use of saddle and pack stock on back country lands. State BCH chapters are associations of concerned men and women dedicated to conserving back country and wilderness and protecting stock users' historic right to use wilderness trails and forage areas. The first stated purpose in the BCH of America Constitution is "to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of saddle and pack stock in America's roadless back country and wilderness."

The Back Country Horsemen of Montana is a service organization, formed in January 1973, with a threefold purpose: service to the back country, education of horsemen, and representation in land use planning and management. We are concerned men and women dedicated to conserving back country and wilderness resources and protecting stock users' historic right to use wilderness trails and forage areas.

The Back Country Horsemen of Montana support the addition of new back country roadless areas and wilderness. We feel that wilderness and back country areas, where all the original trail systems were built with livestock for their use, are essential to the continued use of saddle and pack stock for future generations. We provide service to the agencies in trail maintenance, education, packing skills, and wise use of these lands. Wilderness and roadless lands provide exceptional recreational opportunities for stock users and all others that appreciate solitude devoid of mechanized travel. 🐾

.....provided by Nancy Chandler

**Wilderness Trip for Special Forces Veterans**

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula members are providing some much-needed rest and relaxation for Special Forces Combat Veterans this season. As you probably know, some of our special forces are on their fourth and fifth tours to the Middle East. Kirk Sybrandt is a member of the Special Forces Association and he will donate, along with Paul Evenson and other BCH members, a four to five-day backcountry trip for two special forces combat veterans as soon as approval is received from their commanding officer. No one could be more deserving of some R and R. Hats off to Kirk, Paul, and other BCHM members for donating such a gift! 🐾



### Trail Safety Rules

We all tend to become a little complacent the more we work around stock, so take a few minutes at the start of our riding season to look over the following safety rules. A refresher never hurts!

1. Approach any stock with caution. Let them know you are in the area, either by voice and/or touch.
2. Ride with a boot that has a heel of at least one inch.
3. Never mount a horse that is still tied up.
4. Insert your foot in the stirrup only to the ball of the foot.
5. Keep the reins in your hands. Remember that you are the one with the thinking and reasoning ability. You are in control.
6. Keep a light hand on the reins. Don't yank your horse around.
7. Maintain the proper distance between your horse and the one in front of you.
8. Walk your horse on mountain trails. Keep up so you don't have to trot your horse to catch up.
9. Preferably dismount if you must turn your horse around on narrow and/or steep trails. Always turn his head out over the down side so he can see what his feet are doing.
10. Give your horse his head in a bad spot and don't be too quick to bail off if he stumbles. This applies particularly to stream crossings, bog holes, etc.
11. Don't stop to take pictures on a particularly narrow and steep trail. Ask your wrangler to stop all horses so they aren't walking away, causing your horse to get nervous. Pick a spot where horses bunching up won't create an unnecessary hazard.
12. Remember to check your cinch or have the wrangler check it after your lunch break. Ask your wrangler to check any equipment you have concerns about.
13. Once mounted, don't start down the trail until everyone else is in the saddle.
14. Maintain control of your mount at all times.

The above safety rules apply in most cases, but whenever you are involved with any activity involving livestock, there are exceptions and you must assume that there is some element of risk involved. In some cases you must quickly assess the situation and use your own best judgment to maintain control of your horse and the situation. 🐾 Reprint from June 2001 *Feedbag*

*A few sayings from www.coffee place.com--*

--Never joke with mules or cooks as they have no sense of humor.

--When you're pickin' a workin' horse, look for one named Screwtail, Stump Sucker, Pat's Ass, Pearly Gates, Liver Pill, or Darlin' Jill. Leave the Champions and Silvers for the show ring.

--Nobody ever drowned himself in his own sweat.

--When you're tryin' somethin' new, the fewer people who know about it, the better.

--Too much debt doubles the weight on your horse and puts another in control of the reins.

--If you're gonna go, go like hell. If you mind's not made up, don't use your spurs.

--If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around. 🐾



Nancy Stevens, along with other women authors, have recently published stories in a new book called "A Mile in Her Boots, Women Who Work in the Wild." The book is a delightful collection of stories about wilderness experiences. Nancy will also have a story in the September issue of *Bugle Magazine*, published by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

### Back Country Horsemen at Work



From left to right: Kirk Sybrandt, Christian Sybrandt, Mack Long and Don Schusted. This picture was taken July 7, 2005, at the North Fork of the Blackfoot River outfitter corrals. The job was to pack equipment and materials to the Danaher Cabin on the Spotted Bear Ranger District. A bear had broken into the cabin. The materials were to repair the damage done by the bear.

Connie Long and Nancy Stevens were along on the project. The Back Country Horsemen used 17 head of stock for this project. They packed about 2,160 pounds of equipment and materials and rode about 50 round trip trail miles. They spent 2 nights on the trail. They put up a camp the first night at Dwight Creek and returned to it the second night. 🐾

.....submitted by Paul Evenson

### National Trails Day



National Trails Day  
June 3, 2006

The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is the only nationwide trails celebration that brings together thousands of outdoor enthusiasts to participate in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects on the first Saturday of June. Back Country Horsemen of Missoula will host a trail day celebration at the Blue Mountain Recreation Area on June 3, 2006. If you can help, please call Barbara Koepeke, 626-4351. Thanks! 🐾