



FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

June 2008

President's Message.....

Trail safety and etiquette are so important that this is my message for June. This list has been handed down from our club and added to throughout the years. More detailed information is available in "Back Country Horsemen of Missoula Defensive Horsemanship" manual, which Paul Evenson has recently updated. Have fun and be safe.



Connie & Webster

Trail Safety and Etiquette

Preferably travel with experienced horsemen and women. Make sure your horse is ready for the trail--physically fit and conditioned to obstacles such as water, bridges, bogs, and gates. Your horse should stand quietly while tied. Condition them to gear such as hobbles, cruppers, britchens, rain slickers, overhead branches and riding alone. Get conditioned for riding yourself. You could avoid an accident!

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

Don't leave home without your helmet! Ride with a boot heel of at least one inch. Carry an emergency medical information card. Insert your foot in the stirrup only to the ball of the foot. As you saddle up, be aware of loops hanging from your saddle that could trap you to the horse during a mishap. Always fasten the main cinch first (in increments), then the back cinch, then breast collar and then crupper. When unsaddling, unfasten the main cinch last. (Remember to check your cinches after taking a break.) Never mount a horse that is still tied up. Remember: Horses are always more comfortable and calm if they do not feel trapped.

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

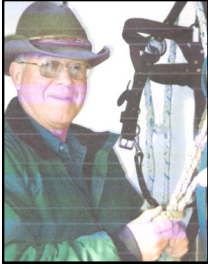
Stay alert! Remember you are the one with the thinking and reasoning ability. Maintain control of your mount at all times and think about what effect your actions might have on others less experienced than you. Maintain the proper distance between your horse and the one in front of you--two to five horse lengths between horses. Don't crowd. Always be aware of your own horse in relation to others. Tie a red ribbon into a horse's tail that kicks--green for green-broke horse. Even if there are no ribbons, remember there is no such thing as a bombproof horse. If you can, dismount to put on your raincoat, unfold a map or handing another rider an item. Even if you don't spook your own horse, you could spook another horse in the group.

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

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

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

Welcome Creek Guard Station Repairs



The second in a series of the epic adventures of Paul Evenson (pictured left), Forest Service volunteer packer. In this adventure Paul shares his knowledge with three friends while assigned to repair Forest Service facilities in the Scapegoat Wilderness Area.

.....BY NICK KAUFMAN WITH SCOTT AND DAN TUXBURY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY SCOTT TUXBURY AND NICK KAUFMAN

***SCRIVENER'S NOTE:** Most of the content for this article came from a conversation over the fence with Scott Tuxbury last month. Some of the content came from Dan Tuxbury in a long distance conversation from his summer vacation in Florida. We pretty much threw out what Paul suggested we write. The rest is history, as we remember it.

IT IS NOT OVERLY DIFFICULT to get to Welcome Creek Guard Station in the Scapegoat Wilderness, Paul Evenson, (retired USFS Smoke Jumper and volunteer packer for the Augusta Ranger Station on the Lewis and Clark National Forest) can attest to that. The challenge lies in the logistics of organizing the stock, tack, saddles, wranglers, equipment, tools, food and seeing to the seemingly infinite details that make a working pack trip successful. On a sunny day in July, 2007, he once again left his home in Missoula, Montana, where he lives with his wife Sandy and fills part of his days with the duties of Vice President of the Missoula Chapter of the Back Country Horseman, and headed to the Rocky Mountain Front as a USFS volunteer on assignment to make needed repairs at the Welcome Creek Guard Station.

A GOOD START

Paul Evenson, Dan Tuxbury and I met up at Scott Tuxbury's house just as the sun's first rays were jutting above the eastern horizon. Scott had his horses caught up and we easily loaded all four into the horse trailer. A quick double check to make sure we had all the tack, gear and repair materials for the trip and we jumped into the pick-up truck and pointed it east toward the Rocky Mountain Front. The trip went well with a stop in Lincoln to fuel up and grab some hot coffee. In a few hours we pulled up to the Augusta Ranger Station. We unloaded Scott's horses—a group of mares, Summer, Cedar, Lightening and Facana, and put them into the corral at Augusta. We met Joe and his assistant packer at Augusta. They brought over Custer, the lone mule on this trip, Jester, Hank, Java and Checker. Paul leaves his four horses and I leave one mule with the Augusta Ranger Station for the packing season. They were unloaded into the Ranger Station corral with Scott's horses. Our immediate task was to get the tack and saddles for the four additional stock animals. We were using all four of Paul's horses, Scott's four horses and my mule on this trip.



Joe with groceries

The supplies came together pretty well. We grabbed up the thirty pounds, or so, of red potatoes that were in cold storage left over from our fall of 2006 trip. In short order we had the trucks loaded with our saddles, manties and panniers. We walked into

Augusta for lunch at Mel's Café. After lunch we made a last check of the gear paying close attention to the supplies needed to replace the chimney and make corral repairs. Now it was time for the short drive up to the Smith Creek Trailhead. Paul, Scott, Dan and I would head up to the trailhead with Scott's mares while Joe and his assistant would bring Paul's horses and the mule and meet us at the trailhead.

AN UPFRONT NOTE ABOUT BEING IN FRONT

We unloaded the stock and picketed them to the horse trailers for brushing and saddling. The chore went smooth as butter and we were soon tying on the loads. Food and fuel went into the panniers; hay and pellets were bundled up in the manties. Then, of course, an extra set of panniers for horse pellets and another set for the stove pipe and tools. Axe and saw were top packed and we were ready to hit the hot, dusty trail.



As we crossed through the gate, Paul said: "Here, Nick, you ride up front." I

Paul unloading one of Scott's mares.

could not believe my ears, "Me, ride in front!" Well, I wanted to be polite and so I insisted that Paul ride in front. He just shook his head. Seems he knew something I did not know. Paul was pulling the string and there was a mare at the back. Now, because I was following behind the string, that mare was in front of me. Turns out Java, the horse I was seated upon, did not like following a mare. He danced, he jiggled, and he tossed his head and generally let me know he was not happy with the order of the day. At a wide spot in the trail, I guided Mr. Java up along side the string; he had a wary eye out the whole time in case one



Me in the lead. Even my hand is up like Ward Bond. PS: That is Checker with his tail up.

of the mares might choose to eat his lunch and we edged into our rightful place in the front of the line. Wow, scenery! I felt a little like Ward Bond in the TV show "Wagon

Train." It sure feels like you sit taller in the saddle when you are in front.

Well that was going to be the order for the whole trip, Java and I would lead. However, in a few days time there would be several events that would cause me, momentarily, to reconsider the desirability of being in the lead. Even Paul's dog Riikka (a Karelian Bear Dog) settled into her new environment and was effortlessly patrolling the flanks of the string and beyond.

A NOTE ABOUT BEAR DOGS

The first thing that strikes you about a Karelian Bear dog is its size. They just do not seem to match your imagination of what a "bear dog" should look like. These dogs are medium-sized. They look very much like a cross between a Border Collie and a Chow with the size closer to that of the Border Collie. The color is black with white accents very much like a Border Collie. They have a round face, short, erect ears and small dark eyes; the face is very much like that of a Chow. The

hair is short and straight. The Karelian bear dog has a sharp, audible bark, nothing impressive, really. Paul tells me the breed is thousands



Riikka

of years old and has some Chow blood but no Border Collie. By the way the breed loves to chase and herd, I believe a Border Collie snuck his nose under one of the ancient kennels when the attendant was not looking and the amorous encounter was never properly recorded.

They are attentive, sort of one owner and are indifferent to humans. Independent, if you

will—more like the personality of a cat than that of a dog. They have lots of energy on the trail. They can easily cover two to three times the distance the horses travel. They like to be in front, and if there is something that smells interesting they will travel off to the side or to the rear.

They come up easily through the string and the stock pays little attention as the dog moves up, down and along side the string during a long day's ride. Over the first hour on the trail you notice the dog, her movements and her bark. Later in the day you might notice more when she goes missing than you do when she is present and you become habituated to her bark. The same loud sharp yap-bark, time after time, after time until it blends with the scenery, the rhythm of the horses and the creak of the saddle leather, same old, same old and then . . . the bark changes! More on that later.

A NOTE ABOUT BEARS

If you read the first installment titled "Scaffold Event," you will remember that in the fall of 2006, we followed a very fresh, very big track of a lone grizzly east over Welcome Creek Pass and down along the Smith Creek Trail most of the way back to the trailhead. It was necessary to follow this particular grizzly track because the track was in the same trail we needed to use to get back to the trailhead. The grizzly track was made after the rain the night before. Events would unfold on this trip that would provide solid evidence that grizzly bears inhabit this portion of the Scapegoat Wilderness.

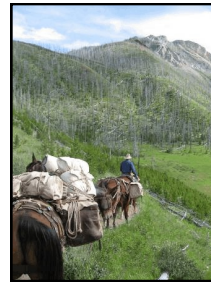
SWAYING IN THE SADDLE

Hours in the saddle allow a person to ponder a lot of issues. Leaving the trailhead at Smith Creek and settling into the long ride ahead I was thinking about the bear we did not get to see in 1984 and wondering about the bears we might get to see in the future. Thoughts of how the country had changed from 1984 to 1988 and from 1988 to 2006 and how the numerous burns of 2007 might change this country still more. Nothing in life is static and the wilderness is a dynamic system. Ironically, we were riding in to undo some of what nature had worked hard to accomplish over just one winter. It is easy to admire those who study natural forces such as fire and dedicate their life to managing this wild terrifying force.

A FIREY NOTE ABOUT THE 1988 BURN

This was not one of those sissy-pants mosaic burns. This was a conflagration that swept up and over ridges and cleaned out side valleys. The fire erupted and got a good start in an unusually dry summer. The event that made it spectacularly unique is the jet stream took a few thousand meter dip and came close to the Rocky Mountain Front just

after the fire got a good foot hold. I was in this part of the back country back in 1984 and have photos of the Dearborn and Half Moon Park taken before the fire from the top of Scapegoat Mountain. That was



East of Welcome Creek Pass in the burn.

one humongous fire! It burned hot through the whole Dearborn and Welcome Creek drainages and a lot more. Even now, some twenty years

later, the forest is just beginning to emerge from this epic fire event.

Whether you label it a fire event or a fire activity, it burned from the south end of the Scapegoat Wilderness to darn near Augusta on the north. Paul mentioned that

Haystack Mountain looked like a Roman candle when the fire went through.

Some of the snags from that fire are still standing and each year many blow down. Each spring it takes significant effort to clear the trails and corrals of the winter's blow down.

WELCOME TO WELCOME CREEK CABIN

You always wonder what you might find when you are the first ones to open a cabin after a snowy winter. In this case, the cabin was pretty much like we had left it the fall before. Undoubtedly, administrative staff had used the cabin after we left it in the fall of 2006. But here it was neat and tidy and beaoning to us like an old friend. We tied the stock to the hitching rail and gave each of them a generous amount of pellets. We took the loads off and unpacked and distributed the gear to its appropriate locations. Then we took a look at the corral.

AN ADVISORY NOTE ABOUT CUTTING BIG DOWNED TIMBER



Paul and Dan on the two-man buck saw.

We were in the Scapegoat Wilderness Area. No, it is not named after the beer! Because we were in a wilderness we could not use chain saws. We did have a single man buck and a two-man buck saw. These saws would be used for two things, clearing out and repairing the corral and clearing the trail. The corral had some amazingly large dead trees that had fallen across the fence and cluttered the interior with

dead trunks and branches. The first night in we started work on the corral so we could use it for the horses. Winter had not been kind to the corral. There was blow down across the fence in a dozen places and as much blow down in the interior of the corral. It was a mess and it took several hours just to repair the fence and we had not even started on clearing out the deadfall. We puzzled how we could move the big stuff out of the corral once we had it cut.

AN EMBARRASSING NOTE ABOUT LAYING PIPE

This happened while we were making the initial repairs on the corral. We penned up the eight horses and the mule in the small breaking corral east of the hay shed. During this somewhat cramped stay, one of the geldings fell in love, with two or three or even possibly all four of the mares. A note of caution: If you have a herd of mares and you mix them with a herd of geldings to make up your sting, make darn sure none of the geldings are proud cut! I want to state here that the mule remained diminutive.

FRESH AIR FUELS THE IMAGINATION

Later, when we were unpacking the supplies for the cabin, I noticed that a cup or so of the Coleman fuel had leaked into the double plastic bags we had packed the can in. Therefore: Double plastic bag all Coleman fuel containers when you are packing them!

“Just imagine,” Dan said, “If that fuel had leaked down the horse’s leg and a steel shoe sparked off a rock we would have had a disaster!” Scott reminded him that it would not have been all that bad; it was not his horse that was carrying the fuel.

After a great supper of red potatoes, some kind of meat and a salad, we made plans to fix the chimney the following day. We turned in early that night. Dan and Paul got the cabin and Scott and I put our bedrolls out on the front porch. The night was cool and crisp with a fair amount of God’s stars twinkling in the heavens.

A NOTE ABOUT FIXING CHIMNEYS

I was awakened by the smell of coffee and the sound of bacon sizzling in the pan along with red potatoes. A good yawn, a stretch and an appropriate scratch and I was up and at ‘em. Scott remained asleep in his cuddly warm sleeping bag. We let Rikka wake him up. After breakfast it was time to tackle the chimney repairs.



“Ole Blue Eyes” and the rusted chimney pipe.

The chimney looked like a rusty pie crust with layers of corroded metal held together by friction alone. When we grabbed the stove pipe to remove it, a significant portion simply collapsed into the smoke hole in the stove. We were looking at a complete replacement but we had the materials for the job.

The Welcome Creek Guard Station is a historic structure. So we were quite careful to only change out the pipe and no portion of the roof or structure. We hauled scaffolding over from the hay shed and set up a safe environment for working on the roof. Paul and Dan took to the roof while Scott and I stayed earth bound fastening sections of pipe and working on the stove. The stove was taken out of doors and emptied. New dirt was placed in the bottom. We scraped the rust off the top and coated it generously with cooking oil to cure the surface. We then installed the new pipe in the smoke hole of the stove and lit a nice hot fire, out of doors, to burn the oil and residue off the pipe and cure it so it would not stink up the cabin. In just a few hours and most of a box of band aids later, the sheet metal work was done and the stove was ready for another season. Next we took to cleaning up around the cabin, picking up wood and putting things in general order.



Up on the roof.



Scott admires the finished chimney job.

AN ANXIOUS NOTE ABOUT A TWO-MANNED WHEEL BARROW

We found an old wheel barrow behind the hay shed and used it to pick up around the cabin. A wheel barrow works fine with one person pushing it. If you add a second man to assist with the up hill runs, the first man will likely feel a bit claustrophobic being positioned between the back of the wheelbarrow, the two handles and the man behind. Paul happened to be the front man, and I decided to assist as the second man. I still remember him saying: “Wait now, wait just a minute!”

With the area neatly policed, we tuned our attention back to the corral.

A CUTTING NOTE ABOUT THE TWO-MAN BUCK SAW

As with many things in life involving two people, timing is important. Balance helps at the beginning as does good footing. And then each person takes their turn pulling, first one then the other. It is a rhythm thing. When we are in the hills we call this: “Making Sawdust.”

If each person was to push individually or in unison, not much sawing would get done but there would be a lot of grunting and sweating. We mastered the two-man buck saw and the technique of rolling really big sections of log out of the corral on two rails laid parallel on the ground. Next we replaced the gate and nailed up some new rails. Lastly, we improved the drainage and threw out hay. We headed back to the cabin for supper, definitely sweaty and very dirty.

Dinner consisted of red potatoes, some type of meat and a fine salad. We used the same sleeping arrangements for the second night. Scott added some horse blankets for added comfort and soon he was snoring and dreaming of pushing in a two person buck-saw activity. I looked forward to our planned trail work the next day on the Upper Dearborn Trail.



Paul riding his mighty horse, Jester

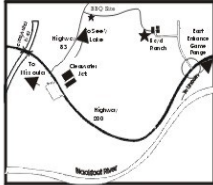
Editor’s Note: I know the readers are anxious to get on with this adventure, but the newsletter has run out of space.....so we’ll leave “the boys” at Welcome Creek Guard Station until the September issue. Hope they have enough red potatoes!

34th Annual Missoula Backcountry Horsemen Steak Ride

**June 15th, 2008
Blackfoot Clearwater**

Game Range

**\$25.00 for ride and BBQ
Ride leaves the Boyd Ranch at 11:00 a.m.**



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off Highway 200, 4 mi. east of the Cow
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Quality Supply sponsored a Myler Bit Seminar on May 12th. Dale Myler gave a presentation on the anatomy of a horse's mouth, bit terminology and function, signs of resistance and biting issues and solutions. Quality Supply sells Myler bits; however, the seminar was more about educating than selling Myler bits. If you ever get a chance to attend one of the Myler Bit Seminars, it is well worth it. Every participant received a DVD called "A Whole Bit Better" which is in BCH Library, along with the book, same title. Thank you, Quality Supply, for sponsoring these clinics and for supporting Back Country Horsemen of Missoula throughout the years.

Northern Region Outstanding Volunteers

By Ginger Hamilton

There are many outstanding volunteers in the Northern Region, but one group of volunteers that comes to mind is the Backcountry Horseman of Montana (BCHMT). These volunteers work very hard on our public lands throughout the State of Montana. Their mission is to perpetuate enjoyable common sense use of horses in the backcountry; assist government agencies in the maintenance and management of the National Forest Trails System; and educate, encourage and solicit active public participation in wise and sustaining use of horses commensurate of the Montana heritage and the backcountry resource.

The BCHMT has up to 1200 members and seventeen chapters in the State of Montana. In 2007, they volunteered over 15,100 hours of work in trail maintenance by repairing water bars, building bridges and corrals, and clearing brush and downed timber to provide safer trails in our National Forests. Other types of projects completed are restoring and repairing historic buildings in the backcountry, fish restoration projects, cleaning our public lands from trash, treating invasive weeds, hauling materials and supplies for Forest Service projects in remote locations, and just about anything a Forest Service employee would do in their regular job.

Through their volunteer efforts they help to maintain and manage

federal lands. They personally traveled and hauled their stock over 94,000 miles using over 1100 stock animals to project locations. The personal costs to these volunteers is tremendous and they contribute these costs to Forest Service Districts and our National Forests. In 2007 they provided up to \$222,000 estimated value of mileage and personal use of pack and saddle stock.

Another area they contributions to is teaching our youth and the public about health and safety in the backcountry. Many of these chapters provide annual horse and mule packing clinics, defensive horsemanship, and horse safety classes. They also educate the public about Leave No Trace and Be Bear Aware. BCHMT provide annual clinics in CPR and First Aid and courses on chainsaw and crosscut-saw training. Often our Forest Service employees attend these courses to learn the proper handling of stock in the backcountry.

The BCHMT provide an invaluable partnership with the Forest Service. Their volunteer efforts are an example of caring for our public lands and providing leadership to our communities all over the State of Montana. In 2007, they contributed over \$446,000 of estimated value of labor and equipment for the maintenance and management of our federal lands. In today's budget crunch, the work and knowledge they provide is invaluable to our region, our agency, and our employees, and we want to thank them for their efforts.



CPR and First Aid Training

April 12, 2008

Pictured Left: Mark Wright instructs the annual CPR and First Aid students. His class was full this year, as it was last year. A full agenda included adult, child and infant CPR, hypothermia, bleeding, shock, burns, heat emergencies, frost emergencies, splints, concussions, drowning, animal bites, infections, and many others.

.....photo by Don Dodge

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 1 Flagging for Steak Ride. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at River City Grill in Bonner
- June 7 National Trails Day
- June 15 Fathers Day Steak Ride
- June 18 MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00 p.m.
- June 28-30 Monture Trail Project. Mike Moore needs volunteers.
- July 12 Creek and Bridge Crossing Refresher by Gary Salisbury. Place TBA
- July TBA Log & Water Crossing + Riding by Richard Tamcke. Erskine Fishing Access.
- WTSM* Lost Cabin Trail Project (Benchmark), can be Co-Ed, 3-4 Days(Paul Evenson)
- WTSM* Benchmark Trail Clearing Project, can be Co-Ed, 3-4 Days (Paul Evenson)
- Aug 6 MBCH Board Meeting, TBA
- Aug. 20 August Potluck, Don & Claudia Barth's place, 6:00 p.m.
- Aug. 20 Submissions Due for September's *Feedbag*
- Sept. 3 MBCH Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 17 MBCH General Meeting, FW&P, 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 27 MT State BCH Board Meeting, Deer Lodge
- Dec. 13 MT State BCH Board Meeting, Smoke's Barn, Missoula
- Dec. 13 MBCH Christmas Potluck, Smoke & Thelma's Barn

**When The Snow Melts!*

**National Trails Day
Saturday, June 7th**

Blue Mountain Trailhead

This year is the 16th annual celebration to bring together outdoor enthusiasts to celebrate the great natural heritage of the national trail system. This day was set aside to recognize the value of recreational trails and the value of the people who are involved in building and maintaining these trails. Trail preservation is necessary to keep our trails open to the public and available for years to come.



Barbara Koepke is again organizing our local celebration at the Blue Mountain Trailhead. She and her committee will set up a LNT camp beginning at 7:00 a.m. on June 7th. Mike Moore is organizing two trail maintenance crews to head out between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. Barbara is hoping members will bring their horses as MBCH show of presence. Theresa Joseph will be providing chili for the members. There will be lots of informational handouts as well as water and snacks. Call Barbara if you'd like to help.



Editor's Notes

Please look over the new MBCH Library list to see if you'd like to check anything out. Sandy Evenson published the list to the website and I have lists for you. Some new items: Books: On the Trail by John Lyons, Conversations with Horse by Kate Solisti-Mattelon, Wild About Horses, by Lawrence Scanlan and Trail Riding Western Montana, by Carellen Smith-Barnett. Thanks to Paul we also have an updated MBCH Defensive Horsemanship book as well as past Feedbag issues—12/98, 9/98, 6/98, 12/97, 9/97, 3/97, 12/96, 9/96, 3/96 & 3/97.

The Ninemile Wildlands Training Center has late summer and fall classes scheduled, including a back country packing, camping and stock handling course August 3-9. Most of you know that Smoke Elser is an instructor at the Center. See their website: www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/resources-cultural/nwtc.

If you've ever sat next to Rick Sherman at a meeting, you know that he doodles his way through the agenda. So one Board meeting I asked him to sketch us a new feedbag for our logo. Check it out on the first page. Thanks, Rick!

Wild Horse and Burro Adoptions are in Kalispell on June 28. Call 866-4MUSTANGS or website: wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

Gary Salisbury's Catalog Horse Sale is Saturday, June 21st at the Lolo Double C Arena. By the time you get this it will be too late to register your horse for sale, but if you're buying or just looking, the Salisbury Auction Service might have what you need.

Montana Mule Days will be June 13-15th at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds in Hamilton.

Back Country Horsemen of America has about 174 clubs in 25 states, with a membership of about 16,000.

I watched a PBS special not long ago about the National Cowboy Museum and Heritage Center in Oklahoma City. An old cowboy who was an icon in the Cowboy Hall of Fame said, "You never stop learning about horses." If you believe that philosophy, as I do, you belong to the right club. The collective knowledge of this group is awesome and they aren't shy about sharing. A huge amount of time and money is spent making sure our members learn more about their horses and how to be safe around them. Thank you all—for all you do!

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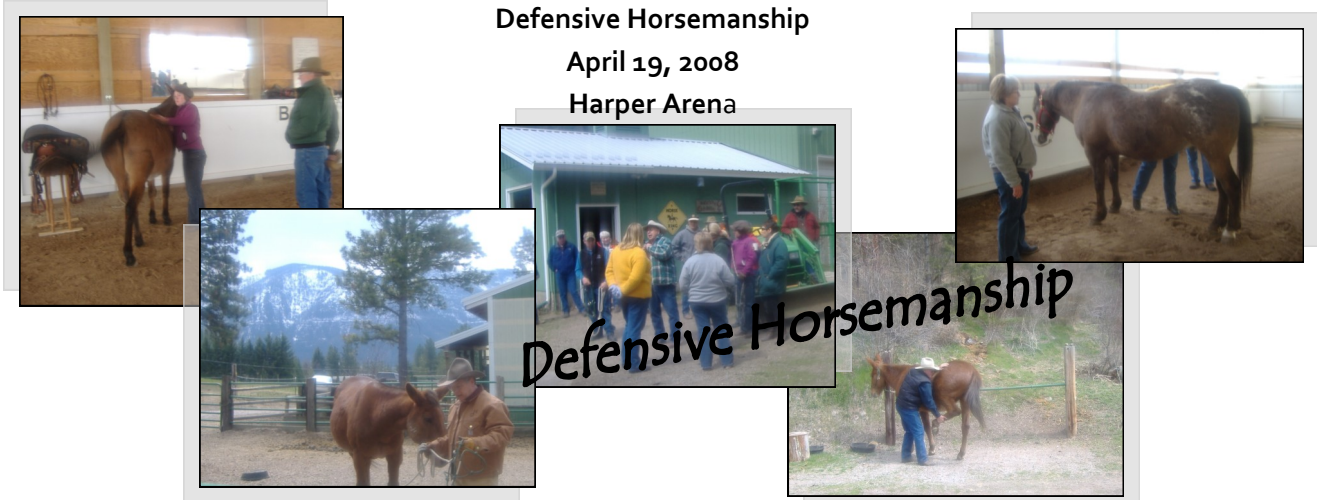
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Defensive Horsemanship

April 19, 2008

Harper Arena



Defensive Horsemanship

Left to Right: Ashlea Sherman, with Paul Evenson looking on, grooming her horse in the Stock Handling Skills session. Dan Harper demonstrates proper and safe haltering and tying. Smoke (middle picture) is doing what he does best—teaching a crowd. Jan Rach looks on as Sandi Treadaway (hidden) grooms before saddling. Above right: Gary Salisbury demonstrate safe hoof check by cupping his hand over the mule's withers. The class is required by the Northern Region Forest Service for all employees and volunteers working with stock on public lands. Certification is required every three years. Topics covered are: Equine behavior and equipment, techniques such as haltering and knots, stock handling skills, safe mounting and riding techniques and horse and human medical safety. Many thanks to the instructors: Smoke Elser, Paul Evenson, Dan Harper, Don Barth, Gary Salisbury and Richard Tamcke. Special thanks to Dan and Marjorie Harper for hosting the event at their barn.



Saw Training

Saw Training Clinic

Don & Claudia Barth hosted the Saw Training Clinic at their place on May 17th. That was the day it was summer! Jake Long, Forestry Technician on the Seeley Lake Ranger District, was instructor. Jake is Mack & Connie's son. After the clinic, Alan Meyers made his world-famous beans and cooked steaks, which the group enjoyed on the bank of the Clark Fork River.



Shoeing Clinic

A shoeing clinic was hosted by Dan and Marjorie Harper in their arena on April 12th. There was a great turnout and a lot of good information provided by Farrier, Ben McGraw. Thank you, Dan and Marjorie for arranging the clinic and hosting it!

Photo by Don Dodge



State Convention

Great Falls

March 28-30, 2008

Missoula Chapter Members at State Convention. Photos by Lola Mae LeProwse



Spring Tune-up and Dutch Oven Cooking



On May 10th, Gary Salisbury and Caroline Bauer hosted this spring tune-up and Dutch Oven lunch at their place south of Lolo. This wonderful refresher course featured equine behavior and body language. Above left Gary works with Claudia Barth and her beautiful Thoroughbred. Gary and Caroline had hoped the day would be a chance for members to get together to just visit and relax and that was certainly the case. Caroline's Dutch Oven lunch, together with potluck dishes from members, was to die for. Lower left: Feather, Sara and Caroline clean up after the meal.

Gary will host another clinic on July 12th. If you have the opportunity to attend you'll come away with a better understanding of the body language of horses, whether they're fearful, angry, bored, spoiled, eager or in pain. Gary just couldn't emphasize enough that equine respect and manners are vital for the safety of humans—especially when a horse weighs 1,100 to 1,200 pounds! So bring your horses, plan to work with Gary, ride in the arena and visit with your friends!

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Missoula Veterinary Clinic

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