



# FEED BAG



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

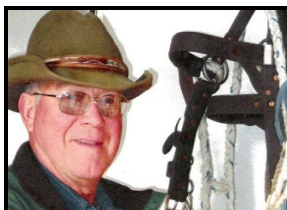
JUNE 2011

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**President's Message:**

Greetings to all. It sure has been a busy spring. The 2011 Expo is behind us and was again a very successful event. Thank you to all who made this event happen. The committee is so large that it's hard to name all the members, but special thanks to the committee chairman, Mark Wright, who kept all the balls juggling in the air to make it happen. I continue to be amazed by the teamwork, camaraderie and hard work of a great group of high achievers.



Welcome to all you new members. I hope you'll be able to participate in some of the events, projects and day rides listed on page 2. Our Recreation Ride Chairman, Richard Tamcke, has been faithfully leading the day rides, along with Ken Brown, Mark Wright, Dr. Dan and Marjorie Harper and Larry Popp. Because of Richard and others mentioned, the day rides have attracted more members than in previous years. Thank you all!

Many of you have had your horses and mules shod for a couple of months and have several trail rides logged already. We have a few projects to do so if you'd like to get on the list for these, contact Mike Moore or Dan Tuxbury. Our next big event is the Annual Father's Day Steak Ride on June 19th at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range.

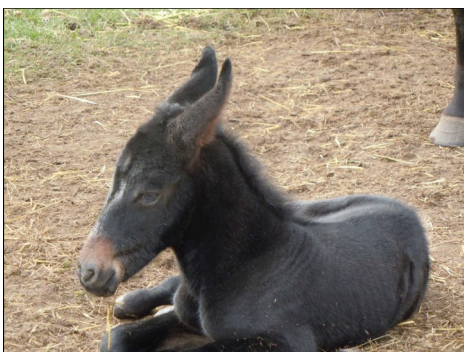
NOTE: The Board passed a change in our General Membership summer meetings. Because we have so many new members that we'd like to have involved and because there are so many projects and rides coming up, we will have a June General Membership meeting on June 15th at 7:00 p.m. at ORI. On July 20 the General Membership will meet at ORI at 7:00. As usual, there will be a short business meeting at our Annual Summer Potluck at the Holt Heritage Museum.

Happy trail riding in this beautiful country! Be courteous on the trails. Be safe!

**Paul Evenson, President**

Quote for this issue:  
 "Might be a good idea to start waterproofing!"  
 ....Dr. Dan Harper

**Don't Forget These Dates!**



Meet Augustus (Gus for short), Mack & Connie's new baby mule.....photo by Connie Long



And meet Kharisma, Mike & Michele's new baby girl. Photo by Michele Hutchins

**June 19th, Annual Fathers Day Steak Ride** (Information on back cover page.)

**June 28th, Region 1 Show Me Trip**, Monture Creek Ranger Station, Potluck at 6:30, Meet Region 1's Regional Forester Leslie Weldon. Smoke Elser encourages members to come earlier in the day to ride one of the many trails from the Ranger Station. Two to three representatives from each State Chapter of Back Country Horsemen have been invited. For questions call Smoke at 549-2820.

**August 19th, Annual Summer Potluck**, Holt Heritage Museum, 6800 Hwy. 12 West, Lolo, 6:00 PM. Don't miss a chance to tour the Holt Heritage Museum. Bill and Ramona Holt have opened their doors and the museum exclusively to our Club and it is fantastic! Meat and beverages are provided, so bring a side dish. In Lolo turn onto Hwy. 12. The Museum is just past Guy's Lolo Cr. Steakhouse on the right. Look for teepees!

*Turn the page for projects, day rides, education, clinics and meeting dates!*

**2011 Work Projects and Rides**

June 8	Stuart Peak Day Ride & Trail Maintenance, Rattlesnake TH*, 10:00, Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
June 11	Woods Gulch Ride, Rattlesnake TH*, Ken Brown 207-6067
June 12	Pre-Steak Ride, Scout the Route, River City Grill in Bonner, 7:00 AM, Paul Evenson, 251-2163 Tickets are being mailed to members; tickets required.
June 19	37th Annual Father's Day Steak Ride, Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range, 11:00, Paul Evenson, 251-2163
June 23-27	Burnt Cabin Work Project, Monture TH, 9:00 AM, Mike Moore, 370-7549
July 9	Larry Creek Ride, Bitterroot, 10:00, Jane Kelly, 370-4363
July 16	Tyler Creek Ride, Bearmouth Area, 10:00, Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
July 23	Blue Mountain Day Ride, 10:00, Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Aug. 20	Stuart Peak, Rattlesnake TH*, 9:00, Ken Brown, 207-6067
Aug. 26-29	Rattlesnake Elk Meadows-Tour of Lakes, Rattlesnake TH*, 8:00, Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 4	Lolo Area Day Ride, 11:00, Alan Meyers, 360-2121
Sept. 10	Ray's Gulch, Rattlesnake TH*, 11:00, Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 17	Bear Creek, Bitterroot, 10:00, Jane Kelly & Diane Tidwell, 370-4363
Oct. 1	Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range Wire Rollup, 7:00 AM at the River City Grill in Bonner or 9:00 AM at the Game Range, Paul Evenson, 251-2163

**MEETINGS**

**BOARD**

BCH of Missoula Board Meetings are held at ORI, 6:30 on the first Wednesday of every month: **July 6, August 3, & Sept. 7**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

The Board voted to hold General Membership meetings throughout the summer: **June 15 & July 20** at ORI, 7:00 and at the Summer Potluck at 6:00 on **August 19**

**STATE**

**Sept. 10** MT BCH Board Meeting, Deer Lodge, 10 AM  
**Dec. 10** MT BCH Board Meeting, Missoula, 10 AM  
**Mar. 30, '12** MT BCH Board Meeting, Billings, 1 PM

**2011 CLINICS AND EDUCATION**

August 4-13 Educational Pack Trip, Bob Marshall WA, Ken Brown, 207-6067  
 October 15-16 Leave No Trace Demo, Hunting Camp in the Rattlesnake, 10 AM, Ken Brown, 207-6067

\*FS Group Limit of 10 Animals. Ride times are **READY TO RIDE**. Bring a lunch.

**MIKE CHANDLER**

**Honored Member of the Month**

Born and raised on the old family farm in Iowa, Mike got his first horse at the age to 10. His dad said, "You break her, she is yours!" The family moved east in 1951 and Silver came along with the family as his dad pursued his love of Angus cattle in Maryland and New York. Right after high school, Mike and Nancy married and moved to southern California, where Mike worked on an Angus ranch next to Roy Rogers' place.



Hating the heat in California, they moved to Denver, where he worked days as a welder and attended gunsmithing school at night for two years. The next move was back to New York state, again working as a cattle herdsman. Missing the mountains, Mike, Nancy and three kids moved to Missoula where he attended the UM Forestry School and once again was able to own a horse.

In March and April of 1964, Smoke held his first packing class outdoors at the fairgrounds. The seven students were instructed by Smoke, Howard Copenhaver, Herb & Bob Toelke, and Ferd Prochnow. Mike became Smoke's first packer/guide for hunting



Bonita Ranger Station from 1964-70. He also ran his own commercial outfitting business with a hunting camp in Monture Creek in 1967, and then in the Rock Creek area from 1968-1971 and 1980-1983. Having heard about a backcountry horseman group that started in the Flathead in 1973, Mike, Ray Roberts, Smoke Elser, Chuck Smith, Fred Hartkorn, Jim Brogger, and John Lance met October 1973 at the 4-B's East to discuss plans for a Backcountry Horseman chapter in Missoula.

a m p that fall. Mike worked t r a i l 6 years, and eventually became V i c e c h a i r m a n of the Montana State BCH (1998-99) and Chairman in 2000-01.

The 70's were busy with working professionally as a realtor and helping to bring the first conservation easements to Montana. He also was active with the Western Montana Fish & Game Assn. and helped develop the Deer Creek Shooting Center. BCH of Missoula also had many work projects and issues during those years. Mike became president of the Missoula BCH in 1978 and served again in 1989, was a state director for 6 years, and eventually became Vice-Chairman of the Montana State BCH (1998-99) and Chairman in 2000-01.

Issues have always been important to Mike and he participated on the Rock Creek Committee, Rare I and II, Lolo-Kootenai Accords, LAC plans for the Bob Marshall, the Rattlesnake, Bitterroot/Selway Wilderness, as well as nearly all the forest plan revisions.

Thirty-seven plus years with BCH has been a very satisfying ride and Mike is really proud of all the ambitious people who have stepped up and served to energize the club in recent years. ....Nancy Chandler

*This is a new column requested by President Paul Evenson. Every issue will feature a member.*



**2011 MEMBERSHIP ROUNDUP**  
February 26th

This year's Roundup was a huge success. Lots of good food and many of us won some nice silent auction items, door prizes, auction items and, best of all, some really nice folks. Couples danced to the music by LeGrande Harvey. We added some new members that evening and we welcome them into our organization!



Club President, Paul Evenson, left, helping his wife, Sandy, with the Membership Roundup table. We appreciate the long hours this couple spends on BCH of Missoula!

Gary Salibury selling State Convention raffle tickets to Charles Culver.



Photograph of the photographer, Michele Hutchins. She is faithfully at every event, camera in hand.

Photos by Don Dodge



Above: Alan Meyers and Ken Brown present Gwen Thibodeau with a plaque in honor of her long membership (she thinks since 1976) with our Club.

The **2011 Spring Tune-Up and Potluck** was held on April 2nd by Gary Salisbury and Caroline Bauer. Chris & Connie Basham graciously offered the use of their indoor arena because of the cooler weather this year. Around a dozen members attended. As it turned out, being indoors on April 2nd was a



blessing! As ever, Gary worked his "magic" on the horses members brought to him, and Caroline demonstrated her Dutch oven skills at lunchtime. Connie's orphaned baby goat was the hit of the event—a cute baby!

**Erskine Fishing Access Log & Water Crossing**

on April 7th was led by Richard Tamcke. There were 12 or so participating members. A safe way to get your horse accustomed to water, making his way through downed rotten logs and over fallen logs. **DID YOU KNOW?** Did you know that horses can't tell how deep the water is by looking at it? Our leader shared that information with us!

**Quality Supply's Demo Day** was also on April 7th. BCH of Missoula members set up the LNT camp and had a nice day visiting with each other and Quality Supply customers. This event was led by Ken Brown.

**Defensive Horse Safety Clinic** was held on April 16th at Dan and Marjorie Harper's arena in Marshall Canyon. Dr. Dan and Marjorie have so generously sponsored this event every year. This eight-hour training course is mandatory for FS employees including volunteers, with a four-hour refresher required every three years. Topics cover horse handling which includes catching, loading, saddling and mounting, horse behavior and accident potentials, equipment such as tack, trailers, proper clothing, and items to take, first aid on the trail for people and animals and riding skills and hands-on practice. This course is offered every Spring by BCH of Missoula.

**Blue Mountain Day Ride**, April 23rd. About a dozen members joined ride leader Richard Tamcke on April 23rd. The day was cool and a bit windy, but sunny. After riding a loop they swung back to the trailhead for sandwiches, brownies and apples. The first Club day ride of the season!

**The Lubrecht Ride** .....By Ken Brown

The Lubrecht Ride on May 1 started out without the leaders Mark and Jenna Wright. Seems that the married couple had been involved in way too much kissing and Mark came down with mononucleosis, better known as mono. Mark's doctor had advised him to take it easy (Jenna was relieved) and also not ride his horse for awhile. So that is how Larry Popp and I got to be the new leaders.

I think we had about 19 riders. I can recall Mike and Cherie Fisher, Larry and Deb Popp, Pat Culver and her grand daughter, McKenzie, Lori Hughes, Sandy and Joe Brosious, John Favro, Mike Hartkorn, Lana and Earl Hamilton, Diane Godfrey, Jayme Feary, Bernadine Croy, and Michael & Elizabeth Biggins. We followed the logging/ski trails. Everything seemed good until we found ourselves up on a mountain side on a dead-end spur road. So we just kept going. As the leader I made sure we were making firm decisions, no wishy/washy decisions, to instill confidence in the troops. However, I was soon hearing disparaging remarks, like, "Are we lost?" Not wanting to create panic, I said, "We are only lost in one direction." With 19 riders we could easily back track. Then Mike Hartkorn would bring up stories of his dad's trips. I was once on a trip with Fred where we went up and down the same mountain three times, for hours, before we found a way off it. Back to Lubrecht. We soon came to another faint road that led to another more defined road, etc, etc. We stopped for lunch. Well some of us. I noticed a few people sneaking off on their horses in different directions, seemingly looking for something. After lunch, (which some people saved a part of just in case), and within a few hundred yards, we came back out on the trail we had originally come in on. There was a noticeable shift in the levity of the group. Back at the parking facility we picked up quite a bit of litter before we left. It was a good ride, with good people. Next year we need our good leaders back!

**Rattlesnake Pack Trip, May 7-8**

By Jayme Feary

Ken Brown planned this trip as an easy single-night for beginners to learn but no beginners participated. The forecast looked wet, which I'm sure scared off some folks, but the weather turned out beautiful and we enjoyed ourselves, Ken, Mike, Cheri and I rode about six easy miles up the Rattlesnake, and we camped in a pretty meadow. A mountain goat and a bear made an appearance on the mountainside. No misadventures other than my mule went a.w.o.l. for awhile.



Left to right: Mike Fisher, Jayme Feary and his dog Woof .... Photo by Ken Brown

Ken organized everything. Mike packed the equipment and supplies. C h e r i c o o k e d . I....well, I

enjoyed myself. My only complaint is that we didn't stay longer.

## Rattlesnake Pack Trip Version #2 .....by Ken Brown

On Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8, four hardy or fool hardy souls rode up about seven miles up the corridor road in the Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Area for an easy first of the year pack trip. Mike and Cheri Fisher, Jayme Feary and I made it in a window of no rain weather and even some sunshine on Sunday. Saturday night was a bit cool, with all of the riders digging out winter coats, hats and gloves. This was the only time we were also attacked by hordes of biting mosquitoes! Go figure.

We had a little excitement on Saturday afternoon when Jayme's mule, Big Mamma, decided to take an unauthorized trip back toward town. After the six mile round trip chase, Jayme and Big "Bad" Mamma showed back up in camp. Jayme would only say she had never done anything like that before. He said it must be all those mares she is hanging out with. I was hopeful that we would be having mule steaks that night but then Jayme had too much of walking to want to walk out the next day. I told him he should consult with an expert on the matter, Dan Harper.

We did practice Leave No Trace (LNT) by camping without a fire, Cheri cooking great light-weight freeze-dried meals, using bear resistant metal panniers, and bringing light-weight equipment. The four of us only used one pack mule for the trip. Packing light also allowed us to leave only ten minutes later than our scheduled 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. Less gear equals less work and better timing.

On Saturday night, there we were minding our own business, with nothing to do but stare at the mountain scenery when we spotted a mountain goat grazing on the mountain side. Five minutes later we spotted a big black bear also eating in the next clearing above the mountain goat. I told this to Bob Wiesner the next day. His response was, "Why did we think it was a mountain goat?" ....Well it was white, had horns and four legs and the four of us watched it move around for about an hour and a half. We had nothing better to do. Bob was so excited he called the biologist at Fish Wildlife and Parks, Vickie Edwards. It was Sunday and Mother Day! It turns out they had been looking for recent sitings of goats and had not yet found any. I made sure the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula got full credit for this important discovery.

## Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride, May 15th .....by Dr. Dan Harper

We had 12 riders on this annual ride. Due to



Debbie Popp leading.  
Photo by Dan Harper

the late spring, the flowers were limited. We did see Heart Leaf Arnica, Woodland Star Flower, Shooting Star, Yellow Bells, Glacier Lily. With all the wind on the day before we expected problems; however, the day was warm, sunny and not too windy.

## Annual 2011 Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo Third Time's a Charm!

By Mark & Jenna Wright

Again this year the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula, in partnership with the Missoula Equestrian Park, hosted a free to the public packing and equestrian skills expo. Even the wet spring weather co-operated on May 21<sup>st</sup> as the Missoula Equestrian Park was literally overflowing with people, well over 750 attended, not counting all the great volunteers. We even saw a few folks with sunburns! There were so many great educational events to take in with demonstrations of different styles of horsemanship offered in the main arena and lots of interesting presenters in the "Big Tent".

The Bitterroot Mountettes opened the day by presenting the flag while Terry MacPheat sang the National Anthem. This year the Expo happened to fall on Armed Forces Day. To honor the men, women, horses and mules of the U.S. armed services, Leonard McCann wearing full cavalry dress uniform, riding a Morgan cavalry horse with his McClellan saddle and tack all historically accurate, helped us salute those who served.

In the main arena there was a day full of demonstrations on jumping, both stadium and cross country by Drue Kerns and her students, a dressage riding demo by Olivia and



Bob Chapeski and others, Bob Hoverson and Mark Pengelly with the Northern Region Pack String, a parade of breeds, a riding mule demo by Ray Woodside, a therapeutic riding demo by Barb Rolf, and the four-up and four-abreast driving demo by Helen and Jack Eden. All events geared towards education. A special thank you goes out to Gary Salisbury and Richard Tamcke for stepping in with a colt starting

and water crossing demo to fill in some unexpected gaps in the program due to last minute cancellations by a few presenters concerned over the equine herpes virus that affected some horses at an event in Utah.

Under the "Big Tent" there were presenters scheduled continuously all day long. Topics such as trail manners, Smoke Elser's packing demonstration, emergency shoeing, Leave no Trace, horse trailer safety, basic horse handling safety, saddle fitting, backcountry feeding, highlines, pickets, hobbles, and electric fences made for continual education for those who stopped by. In addition, there were guest presentations given by an equine chiropractor Kurt Solari and a veterinarian Dr. Bill Brown.

The highlight for children was the "Kid's Tent" where there was straw bale roping, games, educational events, an obstacle course, and the favorite fly spraying board. Around the park between the arena and the "Big Tent" were many displays and informational booths put on by B.C.H. such as a leave no trace backcountry camp, human first aid for the backcountry, a membership tent, a bear aware booth and many more. This year's new food vendor was the Blue Mountain 4-H group which proved to be a huge hit of course followed by ice cream from Cold Stone. More than 15 vendors sold everything from saddles to hoof picks. There were also a number of nonprofit groups providing information.

I would like to thank the Expo committee for all the months of planning and work they put into this year's wonderful event. Also thanks go out to all the many volunteers that helped set up, run the expo, and take it down. Thank you, FFA students Kasey Sweeney, Abby Bardwick, Dan Cole, Sara Malkie who volunteered for the Expo. They set up and took down the jumps and ran the portable microphone out



Nancy Chandler and Connie Basham  
volunteering at the BCH apparel booth

to Presenters. The great work from all of you made this Expo successful and you should all be very proud!

.....Photos by Don Dodge



## Trail Safety and Trail 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 a horse that kicks or a green-broke horse at home until you've worked with a trainer enough to take them out.

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.

Don't be shy about using a mounting block or log or rock to get into the saddle. 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. Main-

tain 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. 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. And speaking of dismounting, kick both feet free of the stirrups. That way if your horse moves you won't get the left foot hung up in the stirrup. Watch that loose garments don't catch on the saddle horn.

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 need to travel and the more room you 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.

*Adapted from: June 2001 Feedbag, "Back Country Horsemen of Montana Defensive Horsemanship," Paul Evenson's "Defensive Horse Safety True/False Challenge Quiz" BCH Missoula April 2008 General Meeting, "Horse Safety 4/28/07" by Gary Salisbury and "You and Your Horse"--Wilderness Outfitters, Smoke & Thelma Elser with input from Richard Tamcke.*



**For Sale: St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services has Troxel equestrian helmets for sale. \$23.00. Contact Marianne Birenbaum at 214-7575 or e-mail [eiranne@vzw.blackberry.net](mailto:eiranne@vzw.blackberry.net).**

*Some members have asked for a reprint of this Rider Emergency Medical Information card. It can be laminated and carried on your person. You can also order ID cards for yourself and your horse on various internet sites.*

Horse & Rider Emergency Information	
Name	_____
Contact	_____
Home/Work #	_____ Cell # _____
Other Contacts	_____
Physician & Phone	_____
Preferred Hospital & Phone	_____

**FOLD**

Allergies, Meds, Meds Carrying	_____
Pre-Existing Conditions, Blood Type, Other	_____
Insurance	_____
Vehicle Key	_____
Veterinarian & Phone	_____
Special Needs & Meds of Horse	_____

## Safety is as simple as ABC - Always Be Careful. ~Author Unknown

**One of Gloria Curdy's tips from "Ranch Wife 101"**

Always load your horse last in the trailer so it is the first one unloaded. By the time he's got his horse unloaded, you will have your cinch pulled and be mounted up ready to go - lessening the chance of him riding off without you with your horse trying to follow while you are still trying to get your foot in the stirrup.

## The Extinction of the Horse in North America, Part II

Many horses and camels, being displaced by the more competitive newcomers, migrated to Asia via the Bering Strait land bridge. After a time, the weather conditions changed again, the open corridor between Asia and North America again was closed by impregnable ice, sometimes in thickness of several thousands of feet. However, one of the first men, the Clovis people, had also come across before the ice-free corridor again froze over and closed once again, about 11,000 years ago. By 6,000 years ago two-thirds of North America and South America's mammals suddenly disappeared. Many people think it no coincidence that this great extinction coincided with the arrival of man in the Americas.

It is documented that hunting in different parts of the world caused the extinction of numerous species. For example, the natives of Hawaii caused the extinction of 50% of the bird species on the Islands due to their hunting the birds for their feathers that were used in ornamental costumes.<sup>12</sup> The natives in a region of the Arctic hunted Musk oxen to extinction.<sup>13</sup>

Some believe that hunting was a significant factor in the extinction of the horse in North America.<sup>11</sup> Millions of humans flooded, in a "Blitzkrieg attack", down the east side of the Rocky Mountains, or the Rocky Mountain Trench, into the Great Plains. It is felt that many animals, including horses and camels, were naive to hunting and had not yet learned to fear man. Horses were an easy target. This "naive" phenomenon has been demonstrated in many island species extinction, where man was a newcomer. Charles Darwin, during his voyage of the Beagle, describes being able to walk up to birds and hit them over the head with a stick.<sup>14</sup>

While man did hunt with crude weapons, such as spears, they also hunted with fire. They used to surround herds of animals, including horses and buffalo, and then set a circle of fire around them. These people would keep the frightened animals inside the circle by flapping robes and/or running with spears at those animals trying to escape. Whole herds were destroyed at one time.

Man also used fire as a means of attracting grazing animals. The natives had noticed that after a fire grazing animals were attracted back to the area for the fresh growth of new grasses. Research in Yellowstone Park has affirmed this by documenting the increased nutritional value

of burned areas' grasses for up to five years post fire. The Indians would burn areas to keep grazing animals close to them so they could be more easily hunted. There is evidence of fires being used across North America, into the eastern part of the United States, by natives.

Additionally climate changes, such as drought, and disease could have been possible contributing factors to the extinction of the horse in North America.<sup>13</sup> Between 18,000 and 11,000 years ago the weather was dramatically changing. We know that it got warmer for the ice sheets to melt. We know that during the Cretaceous time period that there was an inland sea in North America that extended from the Gulf of Mexico deep into present-day Canada. It is possible that with warmer weather the prairie grass lands were under water or became deserts with little vegetation. However if this was the case then how would animals as big as a bison have survived?

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In 1491, before the landing of Christopher Columbus, the population of the Americas is estimated to have been 60 to 100 million Indians. The population of Europe was estimated to be around 100 million people. The Americas' land mass is about 10 times the size of Europe. Yet by the time the horse was reintroduced into North America around 1600 the native population of the Americas was less than 10 million people. It is true that during this time there were wars between the people of the Americas and the Old World. But the dramatic decrease in population, in some cases greater than 90%, was really due to the native population coming in contact with Old World diseases, such as, small pox, malaria, yellow fever, cholera, typhoid, bubonic plague and measles. Accordingly there are some scientists that will argue that Old World invaders returned to the Old World not with riches but with a new disease, Syphilis. Could it be that when new animal

species, including native man, first came into North America some 11,000 years ago that they unknowingly brought some kind or kinds of diseases with them that devastated the native horse population?

The reintroduced wolves in Yellowstone Park are susceptible to canine parvovirus (Parvo), an infectious viral disease. Parvo is a disease carried by domestic dogs. The wolves do not have to come in direct contact with dogs to contract the disease but could even pick it up through contact with dog feces. While the disease would not wipe out a whole pack of wolves, the young pups could have died.<sup>15</sup> Therefore the long term viability of the wolf population could be threatened. It could have been that either man or the animals new to North America brought diseases with them. These new diseases jumped from human or animal carriers (for example exotic animals, dogs, elk, musk oxen, big horn sheep, mountain goats, moose, deer, caribou, cougars/jaguars, and bison) to the highly susceptible large native fauna. These hyper-diseases, according to this theory, were sufficiently lethal to wipe out the native animals.

Similarly, in combination with hunting, climate changes, competing with exotic species, and the affect of diseases, the horse could have been finally driven to extinction in North America. There is a pattern of a combination of contributing factors usually being the cause of extinction of species around the world.<sup>11</sup> While hunting may not have been the sole factor in the extinction of the horse from North America, it is believed it was a significant factor.<sup>13</sup>

Foot Noted References:

- 11 Krech III, Shepard, [THE ECOLOGICAL INDIAN Myth and History](#)
- 12 Quammen, David, [The Song of the Dodo](#)
- 13 Lopez, Barry, [Arctic Dreams](#)
- 14 Darwin, Charles, [Voyage of the Beagle](#)
- 15 Halfpenny, James C., [Yellowstone Wolves in the Wild](#)
- 16 Ewers, John C., [The Horse in Blackfoot Indian Culture](#)

### MULE DAYS

June 10-12, Montana Mule Days, Hamilton  
 June 15-19, Jake Clark Mule Days, Powell WY  
 Sept. 9-11, Hells Cnyn. Mule Days, Enterprise  
 Oregon



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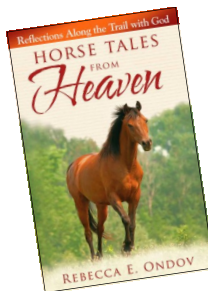
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**Classifieds**

**Like new, gray Tony Lama cowboy boots** with tag still on. Size 8D (however they seem more like 'B's) \$25, Call Gloria at 728-0981.

**Free:** Collection of John Lyon's *Perfect Horse, 3-holed* and in notebooks: 07/98 through 12/06. Each issue is thematic and great info can be found by using the indices. Also, issues of Lyon's *Perfect Horse* in glossy magazine format: 4-7/02; 4-7/07; 2-5/08; 2-9/09. And *Horse Journal* 7-9/10; 1-4/11. Call Gloria at 728-0981.

**Brood Mare Special:** Bay mare, Sirtain Pardee Lace. This 13-year old mare has developed arthritis in her left knee, and sadly we shouldn't ride her anymore. A registered paint, she is descended from both Three Bars and Poco Bueno. Trained by Chris Bohenek. Great papers. The price will easily be negotiated. The main concern is for someone to benefit from her quality conformation and bloodlines. Call Willis or Gloria Curdy and come see her. 728-0981



**LIBRARY NEWS:**

New books in our BCH of Missoula Library:

Reflections from Along the Trail with God: Horse Tales from Heaven by Rebecca Ondov writes about 15 years of guiding for an outfitter and working as a wilderness ranger in the Bob Marshall WA.

A very inspiring short read.

Two Western Horsemen books written by Pat Parelli have been added: Natural Horsemanship. The six keys to a natural horse-human relationship are attitude, knowledge, tools, techniques, time and imagination. The second book is titled Raise Your Hand if You Love Horses. Pat Parelli's journey from zero. Both books have lots of photos which helps with the instruction.

The fourth addition is Training for Western Horse and Rider by J. Wayne "Mac" McArthur. It covers everything you'd want to know about a horse—history, selection of horses, tack and equipment, horse care, the nature of a horse—to name a few.

Lastly, The Big Book of Favorite Horse Stories

(Copyright 1965) has been added to the library. This one is truly a treasure. It's a collection of short stories including authors like John Steinbeck, Ernest Thompson Seton, Will James, Mary O'Hara, Edgar Allen Poe. Here's an excerpt from "Beast of God" by Cecilia Dabrowska: "Feet braced the mare stood, one side pressed in against the rock, the path disintegrating almost beneath her hooves. Another tremor, and she went down onto her knees in slow reluctance, sliding to them against the cliff-face, terror in the large-showing whites of her eyes." Call Myra for the Library: 542-7443 [jmmumma@montana.com](mailto:jmmumma@montana.com)

**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

June 4

About 33 volunteer members came to this annual event last Saturday. They put up the LNT tent complete with brand new scrim for flooring and the new fly overhead. Pictured below, Judy Ward, Julia Nygren and Marianne Birenbaum are handing out surveys to bikers, hikers, cyclists, birders, runners, dog walkers and horsebackers. They passed out 105 survey sheets and could have used more copies. These are given to the Forest Service.



Photo by Susan Reneau

Don Bohne cooked a Dutch Oven lunch for the workers and

Diane Tidwell helped. A group led by Mike Moore did some trail maintenance and cleanup on Blue Mountain trails. Below: Cheri Fisher and Barbara Koepke paint the rail fencing. Barbara has organized this event for last seven years. She's good at it!



Photo by Michele Hutchins



**Pat Colyer** passed away on May 23rd. He is the father of long-time member Mark Colyer and his sons Ross and Austin. Mr. Colyer and his wife, Shirley, started out in the Plains area and moved to Missoula in 1958. He was passionate about music. He taught himself fiddle and guitar and was a lifelong member of the Montana Fiddlers Association. Mr. Colyer formed a band, Colyer and Friends, in later years and they played for the community along with various BCH of Missoula events. We're sorry for your loss, Mark, Ross, Austin, and the rest of the Colyer Family.

**One reason why birds and horses are happy is because they are not trying to impress other birds and horses.**  
 ~Dale Carnegie



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula  
The Feedbag  
P. O. Box 2121  
Missoula, MT 59806

## 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.

## 37th Annual Father's Day Steak Ride & BBQ

### Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range

June 19th, 11:00 AM

\$25.00 for Ride & BBQ

Meet at the Boyd Ranch entrance off Highway 200, 6 miles east of the Cow at Clearwater Junction. Look for the signs on Hwy. 200. Non-riders welcome. No alcohol, stallions or dogs on the ride, please, but dogs are allowed on a leash in camp. Bring your own chairs, please. For more information call Paul at 251-2163 or Gary at 273-6967