



The Feedbag

JUNE 2012

Welcome

New Members:

Alissa Anderson
 Jenni Boutz
 Doug Callaghan &
 Katherine Cox
 Janet Chambers
 Christine Hardy
 Dan & Mary Hiltz
 Lynde Howe &
 Lance Hartshorn
 Richard & Susan Koehler
 Gary & Colleen Koeplin
 Linda McCormick
 Julia Riber &
 Eric Johnston
 Ed & Nancy Richardson
 Justin Urbantus

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President's Message.....



Spring is here and our events are popping out like the flowers in the mountains. The 4th Annual Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo was held on May 19th. We had great advertisement of the event and had the largest turn out yet with 817 officially counted. The weather was great and the performances went on without a hitch, well except for the wagons and Smoke's packs. They all had hitches. Of course an event of this nature could not be possible without all the support of our members, vendors, and volunteer presenters. It was a class act!

Right on the heels of the Expo, the next day, was Dan Harper's Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride. It was well attended and the wildflowers cooperated by showing their stuff.

On May 31st, Smoke's movie, 3 Miles An Hour, was shown at the Roxy Theater for the kick off of the Montana Wilderness Association's wilderness hiking program and their organization's anniversary. About 60 people, including BCH members, were in attendance for the big screen performance.

Saturday, June 2, was National Trails Day. The weather was soggy but we had 20 some people show up. Mark Wright led a group of them up Blue Mountain for their chain certification testing.

Coming up next is the Father's Day Steak Ride on June 17th at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. I understand that Gary Salisbury has already been riding routes on Boyd Mountain in preparation for the ride. There are two scheduled pre-rides on the 9th and the 16th.

We have a lot of rides, pack trips and projects this summer so feel free to pick something out and join us.

We are now gearing up to pursue our 501(c)3 non-profit status. Mark Wright and Connie Long are working on the State Convention that we will host in 2014, which is also our organization's 40th anniversary. So long for now, hope to see you on the trails soon.

.....Ken Brown, President

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula ~Mission Statement~

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreation and stock use.
3. To assist the various agencies responsible for the maintenance and management of public lands.
4. To 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.
5. To foster and encourage formation of new Back Country Horsemen organizations.

DATE	PROJECTS, RIDES, TRAINING, CLINICS	CONTACT
June 9 & 16	Pre-Ride & Trail Clearing for Father's Day Steak Ride	Paul Evenson, 251-2163
June 17	Father's Day Steak Ride, 11:00 AM,	Paul Evenson, 251-2163
June 21	Mill Creek Ride	Diane Tidwell, 273-0862
June 23 & 24	Spotted Dog Game Management Area Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
June 28-July 1	Monture Trail & Burnt Cabin Work Project	Mike Moore, 370-7549
July 4	Skyline Ride	Alan Meyers, 360-2121
July 5-8	Fish Creek/Lake Educational Pack Trip	Dan Harper, 258-6467
July 10	Wallman Trail Ride, Rattlesnake	Ken Brown, 207-6067
July 11	Stuart Peak Trail Clearing, Rattlesnake	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
July 14	Blackfoot Highway Cleanup	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
July 14	Gold Creek Ride & BBQ	Ken Brown, 207-6067
July 15	Gold Creek Day After Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
July 21	Clearwater Junction/Seeley Lake Ride	Klaus & Beate Von Stutterheim, 667-3132
July 22	Tyler Creek Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
July 24	Woods Gulch Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
July 28	Petty Creek Ride	John Favro, 864-8644
July 31	Curry/Sawmill Ride, Rattlesnake	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Aug. 4	Dunigan/Blackfoot Area Ride	Don Barth, 396-6526
Aug. 10-12	North Fork Cabin Project Cont'd.	Mike Moore, 370-7549
Aug. 11	State Line Ride, Lolo Pass Area	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Aug. 14	Rye Gulch Ride Rattlesnake	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Aug. 17	Summer Potluck Picnic, Holt Heritage Museum	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Aug. 18	Pyramid Pass Ride, Seeley Lake Area	Mike Hartkorn, 549-0527
Aug. 25-26	Indian Meadows Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 1	Lolo Ride	Alan Meyers, 360-2121
Sept. 2	Nine Mile Ride	Diane Godfrey, 728-4142
Sept. 8	Curry/Wooten/Sawmill Rattlesnake Ride	Lana & Earl Hamilton, 251-3456
Sept. 15	Primm Meadows/Gold Creek Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Oct. 13	Wire Rollup & Trails Project, Clearwater Game Range	Alan Meyers, 360-2121
Oct. 14	Boyd Mtn. Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Oct. 20	Hwy. 200 Cleanup	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
Dec. 8	Christmas Party & State Board Meeting	

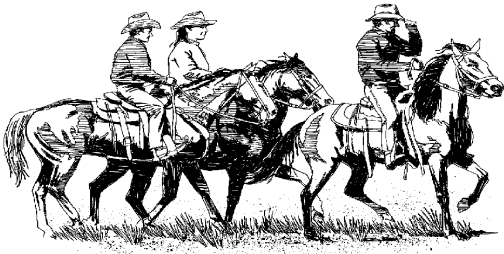
CLUB BOARD MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30 PM; GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM. LOCATION: ORI, OPPORTUNITY RESOURCES, INC.,



Right: April 7th Spring Tuneup and Potluck led by Gary & Caroline Salisbury at Basham's indoor arena. Sandy is Brosious riding Toy while Gary looks on.

Left: April 14th Log & Water at Erskine Fishing Access. Leader: Richard Tamcke.
.....photos by Ken Brown





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. 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. 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. 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. When 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 if there is a 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 Even-son's "Defensive Horse Safety Challenge Quiz" BCH Missoula April 2008 General Meeting, Richard Tamcke Tips, "Horse Safety 4/28/07" by Gary Salisbury and "You and Your Horse"--Wilderness Outfitters, Smoke & Thelma Elser.

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542-5255

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Harmony Stables
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542-1625
harmony-stables@hotmail.com

Holt Heritage Museum
Bill & Ramona Holt
P. O. Box 129
Lolo., MT 59847
273-6743

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Florence, MT 59833
499-0171

Crawford's Auto & Motorsports
2504 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
542-7705

MORE ON MULES

.....by Dan Harper, MD

A mule must be trained the way a horse should be trained, the old saying goes. This means starting with good groundwork and progressing in a quiet calm way to the saddle. The mules' orderly mind needs a calm orderly approach. The trainer will be rewarded with a quiet willing mount.

Mules seldom pull back and can be tied tight. When the mule stands well tied, then he's ready to lead, just the opposite of the way a horse is handled. Mules do tend to be "pushy" and need to be taught to respect the trainer's space. Often a chain under the chin or over the nose can be helpful. Quick consistent feedback will soon help the mule to be respectful. Mules can kick with deadly accuracy and can kick out to the side much farther than a horse. Most young mules will benefit from being tied tight and "teased" with a long whip. Each elicited kick is rewarded with a sharp smack of the whip on the mules' rear. By the third smack of the whip most mules will refuse to kick again and will be safer to be around.

A horse saddle, especially with a semi-quarter horse tree will fit many but not all mules. A mules' back is straight compared to the more concave back of a horse. In addition most mules have flat or mutton withers. A horse tree saddle will tend to make contact in the middle and rock at both ends. The straighter mule tree saddle offers a better fit. A pad usually will not make a poorly fitting saddle fit better. Mules tend to have the largest girth in the mid-section, thus the cinch will tend to work forward to the smaller girth behind the front legs. A breast collar is less important for a mule than a horse but will help keep the saddle from rolling. On the other hand, especially when riding in rough country, a crouper or britchen will be needed to keep the saddle in place. For a trail horse the rear cinch is often just in the way, but for the mule the rear cinch is helpful in keeping the saddle stable and preventing forward migration. The rear cinch usually should be as tight or tighter than the front cinch. Generally 7/8 or full rigging will place the saddle in a good spot for most mules. The center fire rigging will tend to move the saddle too far forward.

A good riding mule will usually be a good pack mule but don't assume that a pack mule will be rideable. If your mule doesn't lead well, he is not ready to ride. If your mule fusses when the head stall goes over his ears, if he won't stand quietly to mount, or if he won't turn his head and move his hindquarters to a one rein stop then get off and go back to the ground work.

Here are some words of wisdom from an old Tennessee mule train-

er: Do it at home first.

Safety first.

Life is too short to mess with a sorry mule.

Training starts when you catch the mule.

When you get in a hurry you get in trouble. Take the time it takes.

Don't abuse your mule but don't let him abuse you.

Get the best mule you can get. God makes a good mule good.

I just help him along.

Safety first and enjoy the ride.

Montana Mule Days
Ravalli County Fairgrounds
Hamilton, Montana

June 10, 2012
8:00 AM

An Expression of Beauty: A Father's Day Tribute to Jim Flansburg

.....by Kimberly Flansburg Reiser

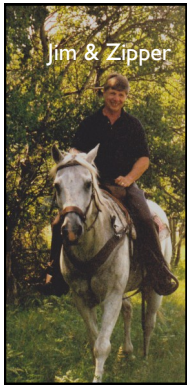
I love Montana for its wilderness areas and the opportunities that they present for fly fishing. My father and I have some favorite areas where we have shared time together since I was a little girl and writing about those times made me realize it was much more to me than a sport.

Fly fishing. It is simply a method, using a dry fly, with a purpose, catching a fish. However, for me it is something more—a method I use to share a common understanding with my father. As I begin to master this method, I begin to seize the meaning of my father's actions toward me. My father communicates to me through his fly cast. He has always expressed his love more adequately through his actions than through words. Nevertheless, there have been times when I have been frustrated with my father's lack of communication, but as I sit here now I see a certain perfection in his cast that speaks to me about his similarly perfect love for me.

As I watch my father cast his line out into the passive waters, I see a peacefulness in his cast I have never noticed before. This image of him forces me to reflect on the times when I could have visually missed this peacefulness because I was too busy disturbing it. For instance, there was a time when I couldn't get a fish off my hook. Regardless of how far down the creek my father was, when I started screaming bloody murder that I had a fish, he came running to take it off. And yet I remember the frustration I felt when he didn't come to my aid fast enough. What was I supposed to do with a fish flipping around on the end of my hook. However, not once did my father say that the simplest solution to the problem was for me to take the fish off myself. Nor did he threaten to leave me home if I didn't learn to be a self-sufficient fisherperson. My father endured my inconveniences, and taking my fish off the hook was not the extent of them. When I got my line tangled up on bushes, I'd yell,

"DAD" at the top of my lungs, and he'd run to my rescue. Occasionally, he'd get a couple of casts in before he came, only to hear me moan and complain again his delay when I needed help. I admit I was quite a difficult fishing companion, but my father never gave up on me. In fact, what he did was give of himself.

With a flick of his wrist, my dad also gives the stream part of himself. There is something in this wilderness and in the free flowing water that reflects his own grace. I can recall seeing this grace in his eyes those times when we stumbled upon a glorious fishing hole—a hole so green, and so tremendously surrounded by bugs we knew a trout had to be lurking underneath. The gleam in my eyes over such a hole often reflected my father's, but with less grace because he would always let me fish the hole first, even though we both knew I wouldn't attack the hole as adequately as he would. Spectacular fishing holes weren't all he handed over to me on our fishing trips. For instance, before each excursion for trout, we'd stop at Bob Wards and a nearby donut shop. At Bob Wards Dad would buy me my choice of almost any fishing lure I wanted, and at the donut shop he'd usually buy me my favorite, a maple bar.



I try to keep a rhythm to my cast much like my father's. However, I wonder sometimes if he looks at my cast in the way I look at his. I wonder if he is impressed by my skill. Or does he notice that I can make my Royal Wulff skim over the water without getting it hooked on the nearby brush. In addition, I wonder if the movement of my fly communicates to him in the same way the movement of his communicates to me. I long for

my fly cast to communicate to my father because I have a difficult time verbally sharing my love to someone who doesn't share any of their inward emotions to me. But, I wonder, if my outward actions portray the magnitude of my love for my father. My father defines a space for himself with his cast, the perimeters of his casts make a piece of that river his own, just as we have defined fly fishing as a territory that belongs solely to the two of us. Lake fishing or spin fishing usually requires us to invite others along who also enjoy and have knowledge of these sports. But fly fishing is something only Father and I do together. We can use this excuse to escape to the Scapegoat Wilderness Area where I now sit. And it is an excuse for my father and I to spend these rare moments alone together.

My father's pole is like a historical artifact, engraved in it are many stories of fishing trips before this. I remember watching my dad twirl the pole in the wind. I would think that someday I wanted to look as skilled as him with a similar pole in my hand, not one that looked good because of its material value, but a pole that shined because I used it with as much grace as my dad. One of the most meaningful things that my father said to me was that when he died he wanted me to have his fishing poles and tackle. This promise wasn't special to me for material reasons, but because it represented our bond; and it is one of my father's most special possessions because it is a symbol of Montana's land which is very much a part of him. My dad is a land surveyor and Western artist. He spends a great deal of time in the Wilderness surveying and taking pictures of wildlife for his art. His greatest hobbies are horseback riding, hunting and fishing. In fact, he recently told us that when he died he wanted his ashes at a specific spot up in the mountains and "Montana Melody" sung at his memorial service. These lands really do represent him. Their serenity, their ability to impact my soul with their beauty, represents more than mere words could express. I wish I had the time to perfect my cast, to impact him with the actions of my love like he has impacted me.



Kim fishing the North Fork of the Blackfoot

As I watch my father fly fish in the midst of this quiet Scapegoat Wilderness Area, there is a beauty in his cast I have never noticed before. The way the fly skims over the water, not quite touching it, but with more distance and grace than I have ever seen. I have just recently begun to understand the extent of I John 3:18: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." And I realize now more than ever the difference between simply saying "I love you" and loving someone.

.....photos provided by Jim Flansburg

Saddle Bag Safety

.....by Dan Harper, MD

Have you ever been on a mountain trail when a wonderful photo opportunity appeared and you could only grouse that you should have brought your good camera—you know, the one with its long telephoto lens, the one that just doesn't fit in the saddlebag. When the urgent need for first aid supplies occurred on the trail—you guessed it. My medical kit, the one that did not quite fit in the saddle bag, was still at home. The fact is that if whatever you need on a trail ride does not fit in your saddle bag, then it won't be there when you need it. At least one trail rider in the group should have emergency first aid supplies (and knowledge). The answer: a saddle bag safety kit. Here are some ideas that have been helpful and handy.

“The saddle bag safety kit has been helpful to me. I am hoping that you will have one in your saddle bag on your next trail ride and that you will NOT need it!”

First, obtain a pair of latex or nitrile medical gloves. Lay one glove out flat. On top, place a three-inch elastic wrap, several packages of 4X4" gauze pads, a small roll of medical adhesive tape, several band aids and a small plastic bag with several aspirin tablets, 200 mg ibuprofen tablets and 25 mg. Benadryl tablets. Next, place the glove on your hand. Roll up the flat glove over the items placed on it. Put that in the palm of your gloved hand. Pull the glove off your hand over the items. This will compress, protect and secure these items. Place the glove package in a quart-size zip lock plastic bag along with a small reflective blanket and two pocket air-activated hand warmers. Include a small pocket lighter and a small L.E.D. light (a head lamp type works best). This goes on one side of the saddle bag.

In a second quart-size zip lock bag, arrange a leatherman type multi-tool (which includes knife, wire cutting pliers, scissors, etc.), 20 feet of 1/8" nylon cord, a small tube of Bacitracin ointment and a small tube of one percent hydrocortisone ointment. Place that bag in the other side of the saddle bag and add a small folding saw and a 45-gallon garbage bag. A map and a G.P.S. device can be added as well. In addition, include items to meet special needs. Consider an "Epi Pen" anaphylaxis kit and prescription medication for asthma, angina, etc. A packet first aid manual may be useful. Insect repellent and a "Bite Ez" pen can also be handy to have. In areas where reception is available, the rider should carry a cell phone in a pocket or on the belt.

Now that the kit is in the bag, it is worthwhile to consider the uses for each item included. The latex gloves are for use with open wounds to minimize blood exposure. The tape can be cut into "butter-fly" bandages to close small lacerations. The gauze can be placed on a wound and wrapped with the elastic wrap to control bleeding (it works on horses as well). Using the folding saw, splints can be cut and fashioned using the cord to immobilize a severe sprain or fracture.

In a severe injury, always consider the possibility of a neck injury and move the patient accordingly. In a severe injury, use the reflective blanket for warmth and keep the head covered with the blanket as well. Place the hand warmer over the abdominal area and another over the chest area. The garbage bag can be used as a poncho or opened to form a rain shelter. Get help as quickly as possible. The use of a G.P.S. and cell phone can activate an emergency response team.

The aspirin can be given in the case of chest pain and suspected heart trouble. Two or three ibuprofen can relieve pain and inflammation. One or two 25 mg. Benadryl tablets can be used for suspected allergy reaction but may cause drowsiness. Bacitracin ointment can be used for cuts and abrasions and the one-percent hydrocortisone ointment can aid with cinch sores for the horse or saddle sores for the rider. The multi-tool has many uses, including the removal of fish hooks and porcupine quills. It is often dark when wrecks occur. The compact L.E.D. headlight will let you see while you work.

Avoid overloading your kit with items not likely to be helpful, including alcohol swabs and antiseptic liquids. Twenty-eight percent of equestrian injuries seen in emergency rooms are fractures and twenty-four percent are head injuries. An advanced first aid course is strongly recommended to enable a good response to a bad situation.

The saddle bag safety kit has been helpful to me. I am hoping that you will have one in your saddle bag on your next trail ride and that you will NOT need it!

Trailer Operations and Maintenance

Sport Land Trailers & Toppers on Highway 93 South, at the south end of Lolo, have been sponsors of our Club for years. They have a "freebie" Operations and Maintenance Manual. Following are but a few of the tips in their manual.

Safety Information: Common causes for loss of control of the trailer are: Driving too fast for conditions (maximum speed when towing a trailer is 60 mph), Overloading the trailer or loading the trailer unevenly, Trailer improperly coupled to the hitch, Inadequate tow vehicle or towing hitch, No braking on trailer, Not maintaining proper tire pressure, Not



keeping lug nuts tight, and Not properly maintaining the trailer structure.

Inspection, Service & Maintenance: The following should be inspected and serviced before each use of your trailer and some items are to be serviced at 3,000, 6,000 or 12,000 miles. If you aren't sure how or when to perform the items, have your dealer do them. Inspect: Breakaway brakes and battery, brakes, shoes and drums, coupler and hitch ball, gooseneck ball, 5th wheel and kingpin, safety chains and hooks, tires, structure (rubber mats and floor, hinges, doors and dividers, roof vents, windows, frame members, welds, axle attachment bolts), wheels (sealed and unsealed bearings, rims, lug nuts and hub).

Preparing the Horse Trailer for Loading: Before loading a horse in your trailer, inspect the interior of the trailer. The interior must be smooth and have no protruding objects. There should be no loose objects that could move about and startle or injure a horse. Check the walls, floor, dividers, etc. for loose and broken parts, welds, hinges and rotten boards. 1) Open windows and vents to provide ventilation. Consider the weather and transport conditions (i.e., on warm sunny days, maximum ventilation is required). Do not carry a horse without providing ventilation, even in the coldest weather. Ventilation is critical for the well being of your horses. Know your horses and adjust ventilation for your horses' comfort. 2) Be sure pivoting window latches are in a flush position so they do not present a protrusion that can injure your horse. 3) Tighten any loose or protruding screws in the walls. 4) Remove or secure loose objects, (i.e. butt bars, saddles, tack and equipment) so that items will not move during towing. 5) Inspect for cracks at the welds on the divider hinges, and welds on the rings. If you are able to open any cracks in or near these welds by lifting the dividers or by twisting the tie rings, have the weld repaired before loading your horses.

Leave No Trace: A Guide to Minimum Impact Camping and Stock-Use Techniques

Leave No Trace principles are universal for all regions of the United States. Specific information within each principle may vary from place to place, depending on the local environment and activity pursued. It is important to remember that LNT principles are guidelines, not rules. Consider your surroundings, local regulations, weather concerns, and your

skill level when choosing the best way to Leave No Trace. Special considerations specific to a particular region or activity are included in more detailed LNT information.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the area and what to expect: learn the weather, travel conditions, local regulations and customs before heading for the backcountry.

Select appropriate equipment for the worst conditions the country and time of year might offer. Make an equipment list. Select equipment and horse gear that allows you to minimize signs of your stay. Light-weight gear, such as compact stoves and nylon tents and sleeping gear, can help reduce the number of horses required to support your trip, thus reducing impact to trails and meadows. Repackage food into lightweight non-breakable containers and bags to decrease the amount of refuse brought into wildlands.

Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces

Utilize durable ground when hiking, landing water craft, stopping for rest breaks, and camping. The best surfaces to utilize are sand, rock, snow, dry grass, and pine needles. In popular areas, concentrate use in established campsites. Keep tents, kitchen areas, and traffic in "hardened" areas that are already bare from previous use. In remote areas, spread use. Spread out while hiking, avoid creating paths while in camp and utilize only durable ground for camping and walking. Avoid places where impact is just beginning. Leave barely-used sites alone to regenerate.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

Reduce litter at the source by repackaging food into reusable containers. Carry out all trash so it will not be left half-burned or dug up by animals.

Properly Dispose of What You Can't Pack Out

Bury human waste 6-8" deep in individual catholes. The best option is to carry out toilet paper in plastic bags as buried TP is often dug up by animals.

Strain food particles from cooking water, scatter the gray water 200 ft. from water sources and camps. In bear country, consolidate water in sump holes. Minimize soap use to keep the backcountry free of chemicals. If washing with soap, rinse 200 ft. from water sources. Scatter fish or hunting remains discretely away from trails or camps. In bear country, hang all food and toiletries at least 100 ft. from cooking and food storage areas.

Leave What You Find

Avoid damaging live trees and plants. It is unnecessary to chop or nail trees, harvest plants, or harm living things. Leave natural and cultural artifacts, such as bones, pottery, or petrified wood, intact for others to view and enjoy.

Minimize Use and Impact of Fires

Know current regulations and weather conditions. During dry periods, it may be dangerous, or even prohibited to build fires. If you can't use a stove, collect and burn only dead and already-downed wood. Use small wood (wrist size or smaller). It burns hot and easily burns to ash. Break wood to smaller lengths as needed: extra wood can be returned to the forest before leaving camp. In high-use areas, use existing, legal fire pits. In remote areas, use no-trace methods such as fire pans or mound fires.

Back Country Horse Use

Take only the minimum number of animals necessary. Take only animals which are fit, calm, experienced. For example, a mare in heat or an unbroken colt would be inappropriate.

Practice at home the techniques to be used in the backcountry before heading out. The trail head is not an ideal place for an animal to learn about breechings, clinking and clanging pannier loads or windblown mantis. Accustom your horses to the type of restraints you will be using. Prior experience with backpackers, llamas and other odd-looking wilderness users may save a major wreck and the impact it can cause.

Horses and mules have great potential for leaving long-lasting impact in the backcountry. They generate pressures up to 1500 psi on each foot. Horseshoes intensify those pressures and increase shearing force on soils and vegetation. As grazing animals, they compete with wildlife for available feed and can over utilize a meadow if not properly attended. As large animals reacting to fear, boredom, hunger and discomfort they can do damage very quickly. A frightened horse can girdle a tree within seconds if it is improperly tied and then sets back on the lead rope violently.

Ideally, horses should spend the shortest amount of time possible in the camp core; enough to load and unload. Otherwise they should be grazing and held by the least constraining method possible. This allows you to spread out and disperse impact.

Someone should be designated to tend the horses regularly to ensure that all are safe and that no damage is being done to the area. Always keep an eye out for problems. If a rope is long enough for a horse to nibble at the ground, it is long enough for him to step over it. A horse in trouble can do irreparable damage both to itself and the environment.

Wet or boggy ground is too fragile to withstand the repeated trampling associated with tied or corralled horses. Evaluate the specific site for each highline or corral. If a tie-up area also catches enough breeze to discourage insects, there will be less pawing and stomping. Insect repellent can also help prevent this kind of damage. Well fed, well watered horses will be more content. Nervous or bored horses that paw while tied should be hobbled as well as tied.

Saddle hobbles: A lightweight but sturdy pair of leather or nylon hobbles can be carried for short-term restraint, especially while the horse is under your immediate supervision. They are great for short stops while traveling or as you first make camp and begin the unloading procedure. A horse thus hobbled is free to graze a short distance away while you attend to other animals and tasks.

Highlines: In many areas, this is the preferred low-impact method for restraining horses in camp because it prevents horses from trampling the root systems around trees. Find an area of dry, hardened ground or a site where the least ground cover will be disturbed. Stretch a rope a little over horse-head high between two live trees at least 8" in diameter. Tie lead ropes at intervals along the highline, away from tree trunks. The ropes should not be able to slide along the highline; this will prevent horses from getting tangled with each other. Additionally, there should be no long loops in the lead ropes which a horse could step over or wrap around its neck. Horses properly tied to a highline have freedom of movement yet are in little danger of getting hurt, and the highline prevents horses from damaging the root systems around trees. To ensure that the highline does not girdle trees, use wide nylon "tree saver" straps or use several loops of a lash rope to spread the constricting force. Gunny sacks can be used for additional bark padding if necessary. When saddling or unsaddling, adjust the height of the highline so saddle horns won't hang up on it.

Temporary corrals: A two-rope corral can be set up to contain horses. When setting up the rope corral, use an area with hard, rocky ground. The corral should be as large as possible to prevent over-trampling of the area. This type of corral is easy to put up and easy to move. Pad all trees to protect the bark from damage. Portable electric fencing is becoming popular for backcountry use. As no trees are required, it is ideal for use in open areas or desert. It is light-weight, versatile and easy to set up and move. You will need to acquaint your horses with it before the trip. New corrals and hitch rails should not be constructed from logs or poles, as their use in the past has created lasting impacts, such as trees cut down for use as poles; damage to standing trees from nails, lashings and ax cuts, and pole corrals left standing after camp is broken.

Tying to trees: Horses should be tied to trees only for short periods of time. If you do have to tie up (e.g., while you set up a highline), select a live tree at least 8" in diameter. A tree of this size can resist some trampling of the roots and damage to the bark. Wrap the lead rope around the trunk twice before you tie the knot. This will prevent most of the damage the rope can do to the bark.

Grazing restraints: Once in camp, free roaming horses grazing on good grass cause little long-term impact. However, limiting travel during grazing is a major concern for the horse user and is a major cause of impact in horse camps. A helpful principle to remember is: more confinement can generally be equated to more impact. For example,

horses on picket do more damage than hobbled horses. More confinement concentrates impact and may contribute to restless behavior. Remember also that a well fed, well watered horse will be more content and less apt to paw or dig, no matter what grazing restraint is used.

Loose grazing: Horses confined only by their own herd-bound instincts cause the least impact. Every group of horses has a few members which lack the courage or the ambition to leave the rest of the bunch. If you can identify these individuals, you can restrain them simply by confining their "buddies" or leaders.

Hobbles: This method of restraint causes very little environmental impact. The idea behind hobbling horses is to give them freedom to graze yet restrict their travel to the general area near camp. Since many horses learn to move freely with hobbles, keep one or two wrangle horses on pickets or within an electric fence. Place bells on "ring leaders" or "loners" to help you keep track of your horses.

Electric fence: This is a popular method for restraining grazing animals. The fence is easy to set up and move around. The fence must be moved periodically to ensure that the area is not overgrazed. Terrain that is impossible for picketing, such as an area with many rocks or bushes, may be fine for electric fence.

Pickets: Picketed horses require good feed. Choose the site carefully and make sure it is free of obstacles. Pack in your picket pins; do not cut trees to make them. Remove those that have been left by others. Move the pins frequently to prevent overgrazing and trampling—as much as every few hours. It is past time to move the picket when you can see a circle beginning to show. When possible, rotate hobbled horses with those on pickets or in an electric fence. This helps ensure all stock get enough feed and water. Picketing two wrangle horses is usually better than picketing only one. A single horse can get anxious if left alone and may paw the ground or injure itself. Picketing a "bell mare" or "ring leader" may help keep the hobbled horses in the general vicinity. Most horses require a little time to learn how to be picketed. It is best to teach them at home under close supervision.

Picketing horses can be very hard on soil and vegetation and is not allowed by land management agencies in some areas where meadow plants are not robust enough to withstand the repeated trampling of hooves and rubbing of the picket line. Know local regulations and how much use a particular meadow can stand when evaluating the type of feed available at each particular camp.

Watering horses: Wet marshy areas, stream banks, ponds and lake edges are very

susceptible to trampling, bank erosion and pollution. Water your horses at an established ford or low rocky spot in the bank where little damage will occur. Encourage the hobbled horses to water there as well. Many watering places are small or contain sensitive vegetation and fragile soils. Consider watering horses away from the source to prevent damage to these sensitive riparian areas. A water bucket is handy in such cases as well as in the kitchen.

Supplemental feed: In some areas, forage is limited; in others, grazing may be restricted by regulation. Meadows should always be left in the best possible condition for those who follow and so that plants can recover from grazing pressures. Fifty percent is often used as a maximum utilization guideline. The use of supplemental feed can reduce grazing time and amount of live feed utilized. A small ration of supplemental feed can also be used as a "bribe" to remind horses that camp is Home. Processed and pelletized feed is a good source of nutrition. It is more concentrated than hay and thus will help keep weight and bulk to a minimum. The seeds of many weeds and non-native species can be found in unprocessed feed which can grow and then compete with native plants. To lessen this problem, avoid packing in uncertified hay or unprocessed grain. Feeding certified hay and feed one day prior to your trip will help prevent the unwitting transport of weeds in horse manure, and allow you to check that your horse will eat the feed you bring. As an alternative to placing feed on the ground, consider putting it in a simple nose bag or on a manti. A full ration can be eaten without waste; less pawing, trampling and close-cropping of the grass should occur. A feed bag can also be hung from the highline.

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula 2012 Scholarship Learning How to Pack with Horses and Mules

Each year BCH of Missoula offers a scholarship to students 16 to 22 years of age to "provide the opportunity for a young man or woman to gain enough experience to safely enjoy packing and riding horses and mules in the back country and wilderness areas." Students qualify for the scholarships by submitting essays that address: the importance of horses and mules in the back country and how each intends to apply skills learned in this course." The scholarships are for Smoke Elser's *Wilderness Outfitting and Packing Course*." Two scholarships were awarded this year.

Alissa Anderson graduated from the University of MT in May of this year in natural resource conservation with minors in wildlife biology and Spanish. She will be doing some backcountry work this summer that she hopes will involve some packing.



Cameron Rys-Sikora also won a 2012 scholarship but was unable to accept this year because of a fractured wrist.

Jim Eichhorn, active BCH of Missoula member in the 1980's and 90's before moving to Polson, turned 100 years old on March 21st. His family threw a party for him. Those attending from our Club included Mike and Nancy Chandler, Connie Basham, Jim and Bobbie Johnson (former members), Ray Roberts, and Don Schusted. Jim held many offices for BCHM. According to Nancy Chandler "he was Membership Chairman one year and he did a good job because that year membership topped 300!" A newspaper reporter asked Jim if he had lived in Montana all his life and he replied "Not yet!"

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Ninemile Wildlands Training Center as of June 3rd still has openings in their Back Country Survival Techniques/Practical Map, Compass & GPS class, along with Log Repair & Replacement for Historic Buildings which will be at Monture Guard Station, and Wood Shingle Roofing at OTO Ranch. Call the Ninemile Ranger District at 626-5201.

Kent & Charlene Krone, BCH of Missoula members, have a great article in the June 2012 issue of "The Trail Rider" about camping with a living quarters trailer. The article includes many helpful tips on selecting the trailer, planning the trip and selecting the destination camp.

Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters, Mack & Connie Long, are offering two educational classes, June 8-10 and June 15-20, which will cover Leave No Trace, camping in bear country, caring for your horse in back country and mule packing basics. Their website is: www.bobmarshallwildernessoutfitters.com.

Volunteer Hours Report, 2011 by Paul Evenson Chapter work hours totaled 4,831 hours by 169 volunteers @ \$20.85=\$100,726.35, 2,480 miles driven, 4,420 miles stock hauling, 172 miles of trail worked, 8 projects. BCH of Missoula believes these public lands belong to each of us and with use comes the responsibility to care for our public lands and the desire to leave them in better shape than we found them. My thanks to all of you who worked on the different projects and those of you that gave your support.

Father's Day Steak Ride

Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range

June 17, 2012

Ride and BBQ



**Back Country Horsemen
of Missoula
P. O. Box 2121
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