



FEED BAG



Back Country Horsemen of Missoula

MARCH 2011

Inside this Issue:

2011 Work Projects/Rides	p. 2
Meetings & Programs	p. 2
Clinics & Education	p. 3
“Let Sleeping Dogs Lie” by Gloria Curdy	p. 3
Yellowstone Park Trip	p. 3
BCHM Scholarship Awardees	p. 3
BCHM Honors Gwen Thibodeau	
By Ken Brown	p. 4
Horse Expo	p. 4
BCHM 2010 Accomplishments	p. 4
“The Horse: A True Montana Son”	
By Ken Brown	p. 5
2011 Officer, Board of Director	
And State Director Profiles	p. 6-7
2011 Montana BCH Convention	p. 7
Classifieds	p. 7
National Trails Day	p. 8
Mule Days Dates	p. 8

President’s Message:

Greetings to all! The Christmas party is behind us and it was a grand time. The Membership Roundup was just held and was, again, a very successful event. There was lots of good food and several new members joined. LeGrande Harvey provided some great entertainment. Thanks to the Social and Membership Committees for the work they did to make the event successful. Alan Meyers and Anna Tucker deserve a special thank you for the work getting sponsors for the silent auction and door prizes. Another special thanks to members who donated to the silent auction and door prizes. It is so heart-warming to watch the enthusiasm our members show for the different functions and Club projects. Thank you!



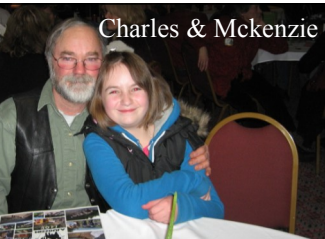
I hope our new members feel welcome. We have to welcome them into the Club and help them understand the different events and projects we sponsor. We will hold our March meeting at Opportunity Resources, Inc. on Russell Street as we have outgrown the FW&P meeting room.

Spring is on its way! I know a couple of people have already gotten their horses and mules out even though the trails are icy. We have lots planned for when the trails clear out so please check the **Dates to Remember** on the following page.

I hope you will support the sponsors who have provided items for the silent auction, door prizes and funding for our Chapter. These donations contribute toward the work we do. Tell them you are a member of Back Country Horsemen of Missoula—they appreciate that.

Many, many thank you’s to all you who volunteer for our functions, events and projects. Special thanks to outgoing Directors—Ken Brown, Ken Bransby, Barbara Koepke and Mack Long. A special thank you as well to outgoing Officers who have been truly dedicated: Mark and Jenna Wright and Connie Long.

Paul Evenson, President



CHRISTMAS PARTY

2010

Thank you to Lola Mae for the Photos

2011 Work Projects and Rides

April 7	Log/Water Crossing Clinic & Ride, 10:00, Erskine Fishing Access, Frenchtown	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
April 23	Blue Mountain Day Ride, 11:00	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
May 1	Lubrecht Experimental Forest Ride	Mark & Jenna Wright, 258-6795
May 7-8	Franklin Bridge Ride & Intro to a Pack Trip, Rattlesnake Trailhead*, 10:00	Ken Brown, 207-6067
May 14	Pattee Canyon Ride, Noon, BBQ After the Ride	Don Sokoloski, 544-7830
May 15	Annual Wildflower Ride, Marshall Canyon, 10:00	Dan & Marjorie Harper, 258-6467
June 5	Mount Jumbo Day Ride, Rattlesnake TH*, 10:00	Ken Brown, 207-6067
June 8	Stuart Peak Day Ride & Trail Maintenance, Rattlesnake TH*, 10:00	Richard Tamcke, 10:00, 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
June 19	37th Annual Father's Day Steak Ride, Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range, 11:00	Paul Evenson, 251-2163
June 24-27	Burnt Cabin Work Project, Monture TH, 9:00 AM	Mike Moore, 370-7549
July 9	Larry Creek Ride, Bitterroot, 10:00 <i>Directions: Take Hwy. 93 So. Through Florence. Go 3 miles to "Bass Creek" sign on right. Turn right after sign (comes up quickly) onto Bass Cr. Rd. to Charles Walters Campground on the left. Turn right to Larry Cr. Horse Facility.</i>	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 <i>Take Hwy. 93 So toward Lolo. From the Peak Fitness Center, drive about 4 miles; turn right into the lane PAST Bird Lane on the right. Ride will be up the mountain from the corrals.</i>	Alan Meyers, 360-2121
Sept. 10	Ray's Gulch, Rattlesnake TH*, 11:00	Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 17	Bear Creek, Bitterroot, 10:00 <i>Drive south from Victor for 3 miles to Bear Creek Road. Turn right and go 2 miles to Red Crow Road and turn right. Continue for a half mile to road junction, turn left and go 3 miles to Bear Creek trailhead.</i>	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

**FS Group Limit of 10 Animals, RIDE TIMES ARE "READY TO RIDE", Bring a Lunch Unless Noted Otherwise*

MEETINGS

Mar. 2	BCHM Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30 PM
Mar. 16	BCHM General Meeting, Opportunity Resources, 7:00 PM
March 25-27	MT BCH Convention, Copper King, Butte
April 6	BCHM Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30 PM
April 20	BCHM General Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 26-30	National BCH Meeting, Butte, War Bonnet Inn
May 4	BCHM Board Meeting, FW&P, 6:30 PM
May 18	BCHM General Meeting, 7:00 PM

Board Meetings are always the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the FW&P office. General Membership Meetings are always the third Wednesday of the month.

2011 General Meeting Programs



Thelma Elser, pictured left, gave the program for the Club's January General Membership meeting. Her presentation, which included some great handouts, was about organizing light-weight food for your pack trip and how to pack the meals in panniers. Thank you, Thelma!

Following are the programs for the rest of 2011:

March	Packing for the Weekend Packer by Dan Harper
April	Equine Chiropractic Care by Kurt Solari, D C
May	Backcountry Packing: Going Light, Going Long by Jayme Feary
Oct.	Yoga for Equestrians by Sandy Brosious
Nov.	Caring for your Saddle by Paul Evenson

2011 CLINICS AND EDUCATION

April 2, Saturday	BCHM Booth, Southgate Mall Spring Bazaar & Hobby Show, 10-6:00, Volunteers for 2 Hours Needed, Call Marianne B. 214-7575
April 2, Saturday	Annual Spring Tune-Up & Potluck, Gary Salisbury & Caroline Bauer, 273-6967
April 7, Saturday	Log & Water Crossing, 10:00 AM, Erskine Fishing Access, Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
April 16, Saturday	Defensive Horse Safety Clinic, 9:00 AM, Dan & Marjorie Harper, 258-6467
April 23, Saturday	Saw Training, 9-1:00 PM, FWP, Mark Wright, 258-6795
May 7-8, Saturday	Intro to a Pack Trip-Rattlesnake Franklin Bridge, 10:00 AM, Ken Brown, 207-6067
May 21, Saturday	Horse Expo, Missoula Equestrian Park, Mark Wright, 258-6795 (Details p. 7)

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie

.....by Gloria Curdy

One day, Will & I were repairing fence (a constant chore anywhere there is stock) in our back field. During this time, we were dog-sitting my sister and brother-in law's old mild dog, Caesar, who was a large mixed breed lab. Caesar was laid out flat sleeping on the ground near us. As we worked, our old horse, Thunder, who was always near us and curious, was cropping grass making his way toward us. The horse reached the dog, who was probably lost in dreams chasing rabbits, and sniffed him. Startled, the dog jumped and latched onto Thunder's nose. Both went up when Thunder reared high with the dog attached to his nose. The dog and horse looked at each other with eyes the size of saucers, or so it seemed. At the maximum height Thunder could rear, the dog let loose, dropped to the ground and took off. At the same time, Thunder whirled, dog fang holes etched into his nose, and raced as fast as his legs could go in the opposite direction. Will and I laughed so hard we had to drop to our knees. When we finally had our composure back, we declared, "Thunder just learned to let sleeping dogs lie," which sent us off on another laughing spree. For the rest of the time the dog was with us, Thunder and Caesar kept an acre of pasture between them at all times even when the other horses and the dog hung out together.... This picture in our mind has prompted many smiles for us whenever we think of it.



Thunder, Above
& Caesar, Right

Memorial Weekend May 28-30, 2011 BCH Sightseeing Trip to Yellowstone Park

.....by Ken Brown

We will be doing a Saturday, Sunday, and Monday trip to Yellowstone Park to observe wildlife in the Lamar Valley, known as the Serengeti of North America. The Lamar Valley is located north of Gardiner, MT and Mammoth Hot Spring, between Roosevelt Lodge Junction and Cooke City. You will observe huge herds of bison and elk. It is the beginning of calving season so there will also be a number of grizzly and black bears and wolves. The best viewing is from 5:00 a.m. to around 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is common to see between six to ten different bears in a three-hour period. You have an 80% chance of seeing a wolf on any given day, the highest success rate in the world. You will need to bring or share a spotting scope—40 power seems to be best. Binoculars are also very useful. There will be wonderful opportunities for your camera. Bring warm winter clothing of coats, hats and gloves. On the good side, cold weather makes for some of the best viewing with long range scopes because there won't be heat waves. There is a following of people that come from all over the world to view at this time of year.

We will be staying in a motel in Cooke City. There are restaurants, although not many. However the quality of food can be excellent. There is a bakery open earlier in the morning, at least there was last year. We can car pool. I have been doing this each year since just before the reintroduction of the wolves, about fourteen or fifteen years. I have never had a bad year. Each year is different with its own unique experiences. If you are interested in going or want to talk about the trip give me a call at 207-6067 or e-mail me at kenbrownori@yahoo.com.

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



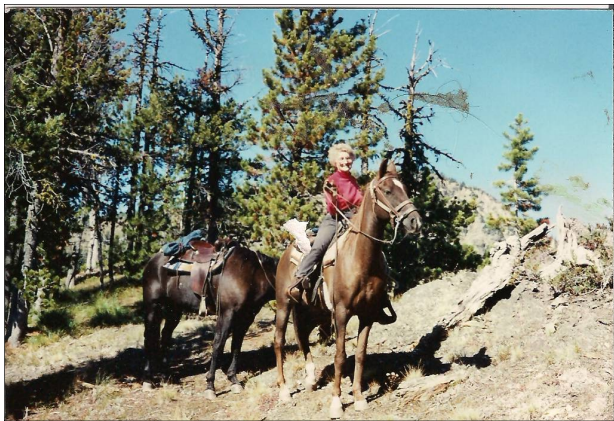
Levi Morris and Shannon Hawthorne are BCHM's scholarship winners for 2011. Both students were awarded scholarship certificates to Smoke Elser's *Wilderness Outfitting and Packing Course*, Club memberships and a Club hat at the Annual Membership Roundup on February 26th. Both students qualified for the scholarships by submitting essays that addressed: the importance of horses and mules in the back country and how each intended to apply skills learned in this course." BCHM offers this 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." Congratulations, Levi and Shannon! Thank you, Scholarship Committee: Gloria Curdy, Paul Evenson, Alan Meyers, John Favro and Mark Wright.

BCHM Honors Gwen Thibodeau at the Membership Roundup

.....by Ken Brown

The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula (BCHM) started in 1974, being the second club in existence, just behind the Columbia Falls or Flathead Chapter that started in 1973. One of the four founding fathers of BCH is Duane Fulton, whose younger sister (she will like the younger part) is Gwen Thibodeau. Gwen believes that she joined BCHM in 1976.

I briefly met Gwen and her husband, Pat, in about 1984 on a BCH ride up Nine Mile. Pat was riding a Tennessee Walker and Gwen was on an Arabian. It was not until about 1986, shortly after Pat's death, that Gwen and I started to ride together. I wrote an article, "A Tough Trip through Paradise" for *The Feedbag* about a rather long ride she and I did. And like the book, it was a memorable ride. Some time I will resubmit this article to *The Feedbag*. The jest of the article was it was an unexpected adventure for both of us that proved to be harder on me than it was her. My friend Gwen and I have now been riding together for about twenty five years or



Gwen Thibodeau
Rattlesnake Wire Project

a quarter of a century (that sounds longer and more impressive). And every ride is an adventure. She loves to explore.

Gwen was President of BCHM in 1988, Vice-President in 1987 and was Secretary in 1985 and 1986. During that time she was involved in:

The controversy in the Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Area (RNRWA) concerning water quality and horses. In 1983 Missoula experienced an out break of Guardia in the city water supply. One of

Missoula's immediate responses was to go to wells and the addition of chlorine to the city water supply. Another response was an attempt to ban dogs and horses and to remove all the beaver from the RBRWA. BCHM attended many public meetings on the issue. One gentleman contended that horses were carriers of Guardia. Gwen took issue with this statement and surveyed veterinarians within the surrounding states for their experience in treating Guardia in horses. Only one case was found with a race horse in New York that was trained in a water pool. So cases were extremely rare, if at all. Meanwhile there was an abundance of research to show that beaver, waterfowl, muskrats, deer, elk and bears, to name a few animals, that lived in the area 24 hours a day were known carriers of Guardia. Of course, another animal that was also known to be a carrier of Guardia was man. BCHM's case was that horse use based on U of M's Steve McCool's longitudinal studies indicated that only 3% of the use in the Rattlesnake was by horses. Therefore, horses were not a significant factor in Guardia. The State Water Quality Division became involved. Their position was that the water from the Rattlesnake Creek could no longer be used as Missoula's drinking water source without installing a multi-million dollar water purification plant. Missoula has continued to use wells for its drinking water. Horses, dogs, beaver and all the other animal uses were allowed to continue. This decision was also important because building the Rattlesnake horse facility had been put on hold until this issue was resolved.

The Rattlesnake Trailhead was another issue that BCHM became very involved in. There were organizations, like the Friends (Fiends) of the Rattlesnake that wanted to eliminate horse use.

Some of the neighbors in the upper Rattlesnake were also opposed to the Forest Service chosen site for the horse facility. Gwen was very involved in this battle. One of the neighbors still refers to her as "that Thibodeau woman".

Gwen was also involved in Montana legislation to remove tax on saddles. It was pointed out that other recreationists were not taxed for their skis, cameras, back packing equipment nor should horsemen be taxed on their recreational equipment, saddles. This bill passed.

Gwen was also involved in legislation to

lessen liability for horse related accidents, citing that the use of horses had inherent risks and dangers for which riders had to assume the responsibility.

Gwen went to the City Council to convince them not to ban horses on the then newly dedicated Kim Williams Trail based on historical use of the trail by horses. Gwen was successful and also quoted in the newspaper.

Gwen is still an active member of the Club's calling committee. She also still rides with me. Since her horse does not do well with other horses and our horses know each as they are pastured together in the winter, she and I ride together, mostly on Mount Jumbo and in Marshall Canyon. Although she maintains a busy social life she is always ready for a ride. She also rides by herself in the backcountry. And when she rides she rides. Many hours and many miles at a good clip. I only wish someday I could ride as well as she does. I keep trying.



Horse Expo

Mark your calendars: May 21st,

Missoula Equestrian Park

Planning meetings held every second Wednesday of the month at the Press Box, 6:30 PM. Volunteers needed—call Caroline Bauer, 273-6967, if you can help out. Mark Wright is Committee Chairman, 258-6795

BCH of Missoula 2010 Accomplishments

Chapter work hours totaled 1,542 hours by 79 Volunteers @ \$20.85=\$32,150.70, 2,060 miles driven, 6,680 miles stock hauling, miles of trail worked was 205 miles for a total of 13 projects. Back Country Horsemen of Missoula believe 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 it better than we found it. My thanks to all of you who worked on the different projects and to those of you that gave your support!

.....Paul Evenson

THE HORSE: a True Montana Son

.....by Ken Brown

One of the most important things we as Back Country Horsemen must understand and be prepared to explain to the general public is the historical significance of the horse. The historical presence of the horse is the primary justification of the horse in back country, wilderness in particular. Many people commonly voice the question and concern of why horses are allowed in wilderness. We need to be prepared to answer this question. It is important.

So this is the first in a series of articles on the history of the horse.

A long, long time ago...in a land far, far way.... By 60 million years ago the ancestor of the horse was a species of animal. The ancestors of the horse were found in the combined land mass of North America and Europe called the super continent of Gondwanaland. Eventually North America split away from what is now the European continent and over a great period of time slowly slid across the Atlantic Ocean. (South America split from Africa and also slid west but was not connected to North America until fairly recently.)



During this time of the dinosaurs, smaller mammals survived the dinosaurs by hiding in leafy undergrowth of softwood forests. Many of them were nocturnal. When the dinosaurs became extinct early relatives of horses moved out onto the plains and greatly multiplied. The distant relative to the present day horse was about 12 inches at the shoulder, about the size of a fox. It had padded dog like feet. Evidence of this animal has been found in England, France, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. Much of what is known about the physical history of the horse has been discovered from fossils. Thank-

fully it is a very rich history. In fact the fossil history of the horse is probably the best and most complete example of evolution of a species.

About 45 million years ago, the ancestors of the horse, for some unknown reason, became extinct in the Old World. However, the horse continued to thrive and adapted to the new prairie grasslands in North America.

The horse evolved into many different phases, from the early hyracotherium through a series of other phases and false starts. The horse evolved to a bigger size, and changed from a five toed foot to a single toed hoof. Their teeth and jaws also changed from eating leaves of trees or browsing to accommodate grazing the hard grasses of the prairies. Horses evolved from having low crown teeth, used to browse or chew soft leaves, to having high crowned teeth. The high crown teeth grew continuously to accommodate for the severe wear due to eating harsh prairie grasses. Dinosaurs, with a few exceptions like the duckbill, did not have teeth that lined up top to bottom for chewing or grinding the harsh prairie grass. The dinosaurs instead had large teeth for ripping or tearing but not chewing food. The horse species was able to adapt to changes in plants due to climate changes. The horse changed from being a browser of leaves to a grazer of grasses. Other changes that the horse went through were increase in size of cheek teeth, and the lengthening of the face. Horses also developed into an animal built for speed and endurance running as a means of survival. For example, the fastest man can run at a speed of 22 miles per hour for a very short distance while the modern fastest horse can run at 41 miles per hour.

Around 12,000 to 15,000 years ago there was a warming of the climate and a land passage way was exposed across the Bering Strait. Many animals from North America exited the continent by this route into present day Russia, including the horse. Many people believe that an ancestor of the horse made this trip and then the present day horse,

Equus, evolved in other parts of the world. About 6,000 years ago the horse was extinct in North America. (A discussion of this occurrence will be the subject of the next horse history article.)

However, in September of 1993, some placer miners in the Yukon found the remains of a horse. The horse was well preserved in the permafrost. The horse looked like any horse you would see today. Archeologist, Ruth Gottardt thought the remains were of a horse that had died during the Yukon Gold Rush, about 100 years ago. The remains were sent to Dr. Richard Harington, a paleontologist and curator of the Quaternary Zoology at the Dandian Museum of the Nature in Ottawa, Canada. Radiocarbon dating revealed the carcass to be 25,000 years old, giving further evidence that the horse known today, Equus, was native to North America and only North America. It is also important to note that the horse reintroduced in the 1600s to North America (another story to come) was not an exotic species or non-native, but a reintroduced domesticated native species, Equus, the horse. This is significant in that the horse needs to be treated as a Montana native animal. The horse has a legitimate claim to its original habitat, which includes the backcountry of Montana, including its wilderness areas.

Sources: Hugh, Tom, The Time of the Buffalo; Ward, Peter, The End of Evolution on Mass Extinctions and Preservation of Biodiversity; Trippet, Frank, The First Horsemen; Simpson, G. G., Horses: The Story of the Horse Family in the Modern World and through Sixty Million Years of History; Stanley, Steven M., Extinction; Horner, John R., Digging Dinosaurs

“People don’t really own mules. They are like cats. They’re livin’ at your place and doin’ as little as they can to get by and still stay there.”Baxter Black

2011 OFFICER PROFILES

Paul Evenson is our 2011 President. Paul retired from USDA-FS Fire and Aviation. "I had the two best jobs in the FS," he says. "A smokejumper and helicopter operations." When he retired in 2003, he joined BCH of Missoula. Paul believes in our Mission Statement. In addition to packing in supplies for Club work projects, Paul packs in lookout supplies, back country camps for former smokejumpers, for the Bob Marshall Foundation, for government dignitaries, for the Smokejumper Trail Crew projects—about anyone or anything that needs packing into Wilderness Areas. He is accompanied by his Karelian bear dog, Riikka, on these trips, as well as other BCH of Missoula members. His favorite trail is the one into Gates Park up and over Headquarters Pass. "It is always different," he says. "Good view, maybe wind, rain and snow, but always a great. You will have to make it some time. The trail gets up really high and on the east side it is a bit steep in places. Along that trail is a big spring that has the best ice-cold water." Paul was President of our club in 2009 and 2010. He was Vice-President for two years before that. He was Issues Committee Chairman and on the Board of Directors in 2005 and 2006.



Ken Brown is the Club's Vice-President this year. He just finished a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Ken was active in the 1980's and was President in 1989. Ken organizes work projects in the back country, day rides and committees for our major social events. Ken is the Director of Specialized Services for Opportunity Resources, Inc.



Jane Kelly is our 2011 Secretary. "I started working at a dude ranch in upstate New York when I was 14. I would have gladly done it for nothing but I did get paid \$2 per day. The ranch took out trail rides all day long after giving the riders basic instruction. I was responsible for every aspect of horse care. Later I ran the horse program at summer camps for NYC kids. How did I get this job? The first time I ever rode was on my girlfriend's 35-yr. old, skinny horse; no saddle but lots of bones. I went off into the woods for a couple of hours. I kept trotting but every time I did I fell off. When I came back everyone thought that I must be dead. I was bruised from head to toe and my clothes were split up one way and down the other, but it was the best time I ever had! The owner of the nearby dude ranch saw me when I returned and immediately offered me a job. I have lived in Montana for 15 years. I was able to get some great horses here and introduced my daughter, Kelly, to my passion. Kelly went through all levels of 4-H and was a Charlie Russell Rider. I volunteered for 4-H for years and was offered an interim position as Missoula County 4-H agent when the agent resigned. I also worked with 4-H Trail Project. I have worked for the past eight years in the City of Missoula Police Department as Volunteer Coordinator and also in the Office of Neighborhoods. I presently have two foundation Quarter Horses, Zip and Dublin. I love to ride Dublin and am always looking for friends who don't have horses so they



can ride my good boy, Zip. I am a new member to BCH of Missoula—what a fine organization and great bunch of people!"

Barbara Koepke was BCH of Missoula's Treasurer from 2006 through 2009. This year will be her seventh as coordinator of National Trails Day. She loves horseback riding—day rides and moonlight rides. She owns a gorgeous Palomino mare named Dancer and a new horse named Toby purchased from Fred Benefiel's estate. Toby has given her many pleasant rides. Barb made 3 back country trips totaling 13 days in 2010 and looks forward to more in the 2011 season. Barb was a 4-H leader for six years in Las Vegas for dog care and training projects and veterinarian science. She loves to cook, especially Dutch Oven cooking. She's famous for her huckleberry peach pie, which she brings to many of the Club potlucks. The recipe is in a Cookbook for Breast Survivors that Barbara contributed to. Barb has many hobbies, too many she says, but after horses sewing is at the top of her list; specifically appliqué quilting. If you have ever noticed her perfect handwriting you might know that she was a draftsman along with being a mom (to Michele and Diane) in earlier years. Barb drafted over 35 house plans in her working years.



Alan Meyers was voted to a two-year term on the Board of Directors in 2009. In addition to being on the BOD for the club, he is on the planning committee for the Membership Roundup, Christmas party and Father's Day Steak Ride. And when the committee gives him a job, you'd best stand back and watch! He is also the chairman of the Sponsorship Committee and volunteers for about every Club committee formed. Alan was raised in St. Ignacius, Montana on a ranch. He loves packing into the back country. He says there's nothing better than watching a young horse get better and better on those trips. And, he loves getting to see new country. Alan owns Sky-Hi Auction Company which provides farm, ranch, land, livestock dispersal and liquidation. He is an auctioneer and appraiser. Alan is a licensed realtor for commercial, land, ranch and residential properties. Previously, he was an owner of Missoula Livestock Auction and was a livestock auctioneer for 31 years. He still sells horses; always has a good, well-broke saddle horse for sale. Alan's wife, Kathy, teaches fifth grade at Hellgate Elementary. They have two grown sons who are both Missoula City firemen.



2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marianne Birenbaum: Marianne is a Registered Nurse at St. Patrick Hospital's Emergency Department. She works with the On-Call Trauma Services. Those first-hand experiences have prompted several articles for *The Feedbag* about horse safety for humans. She also sells Troxel equestrian helmets for the St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services. They are a great buy at \$23. Marianne is always willing to work on BCH of Missoula projects such as National Trails Day, Southgate Mall Spring Bazaar & Hobby Show and the BCH Backcountry LNT Camp at Western Montana Fair. She agreed to serve the Club in 2011 on the Board of Directors.

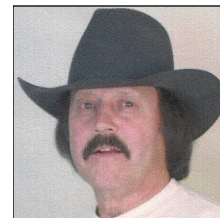


Connie Long currently holds the Past President position on the Board of Directors. "I was president 2007 and 2008, I have been State Director for the past 2 years and Treasurer for 2010. I have been a member of Back Country Horsemen of Missoula for 15 years and was a member of the Cabinet Back Country Horsemen in Libby prior to moving to Missoula. I am married to Mack and we have 3 grown children and 2 adorable grandsons, ages 2 & 4. What has been keeping me busy recently is buying part of Smoke Elser's outfitting business from the current owner and starting an outfitting business in the Bob Marshall Wilderness with Mack's help. I am so pleased that Smoke has agreed to mentor me and I am so fortunate that he goes with me on the trips as much as he can. He is such an asset. I also have been fortunate enough to have the help of several club members who have offered their horses and mules, and have accompanied us on trips and provided invaluable help as wranglers, guides and moral support. I am also a registered nurse and have an "on-call"



Herb Monk is a new member of the Board of Directors for a two-year term. He is a retired Marine now employed as a forester. One of the highlights of working as a forester was being part of the reforestation of nearly all of the Plum Creek land surrounding Missoula and Lolo Pass. From 2001 to 2009 they planted approximately ten million trees with Honduran planting crews. When we are long gone and forgotten hopefully the trees or their seedlings will still be around. He grew up "Jingling Horse" in and out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness and on the State Line Trail. Herb comes from four generations of Back Country Horsemen in Montana, including Lt. G. C. Doane who in 1870 led the Army escort of the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition which mapped what became Yellowstone National Park. He and his wife Sue helped organize the BCH crew that currently maintains the "Adopt A Highway" stretch of road at Clearwater Junction.

Mike Moore: "My wife, Suzette, and our kids, Shanna and Colin, have been members of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula for about eight years. Members Neva Larson and Judy Ward encouraged us to join the Club. We cannot thank them enough for that. We have made so many new friends who have taught us so much about horses and riding in the back country. The kids have expanded their horizons and are active in rodeo. Shanna raced barrels in her Senior year of high school and Colin, in his third year of high school, team ropes and calf ropes. I am even learning to team rope! I served three years as Secretary. I am currently in my third year as co-chair of the Projects Committee and in my first year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors. We thoroughly enjoy the projects and social rides."



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2011 STATE DIRECTORS

Smoke Elser is a founding member of BCH of Missoula which he helped organize in 1973. He was the interim president for March, April and May of 1973 until new officers were elected and Raynor Roberts took over as President. Smoke was club President two other terms, and Vice-President in 2002. He has been elected to the Board of Directors and the State Board many times over the years as well, serving as Education Chairman and Forest Service Liaison. Smoke and his wife, Thelma, celebrated 50 years in the Bob Marshall in 2007. They felt fortunate to have lived out their dream of living in the mountains with their outfitting business. They were running 16 to 18 summer pack trips, averaging eight days each and 4 to 6 8-day hunts each year. Smoke is a legend in the outfitting business. He once said he loved it for many reasons, but mostly to see what

there might be over the mountain or around the bend in the trail. Smoke is called a "wilderness hero" for the work he's done to protect Montana's Wilderness Areas. He has been involved in every effort to protect wilderness since before the Wilderness Act passed in 1964. He worked to protect the Lincoln-Sagegoat Wilderness designated in 1972. He's been on the political front for the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Project and more recently the Forest Jobs and Recreation Bill. Smoke teaches a Wilderness Outfitting and Packing Course at the University of Montana and also Outfitting and Packing at Ninemile Wildlands Training Center. Smoke loves pie and ice cream!



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Gary Salisbury "was voted to the State Board of Directors to represent our Club for 2011. In 2010 he was the State Alternate Director. Gary's past history with Back Country Horsemen of Missoula includes: In 2004 then President Bob Doty became ill and Gary took over as president. He was elected President in 2005 and 2006, then elected as Alternate to the State Board of Directors. He served as Alternate in 2007 as well. He was a State Board of Director in 2008 and 2009 and Alternate in 2010. Gary headed up the Annual Steak Ride for a number of years and is still on that committee. Gary started riding colts for neighboring ranches when he was in his teens and made a career of building ranch horses. In the 1980's he studied horse behavior and their interactions with each other. He has used that to develop a method of working with the horse and their thought processes ever since. He has built his training philosophy from the observation



of the horse. Gary has had great success in working with people who are having problems with their horses. Gary and Caroline now own Salisbury Auction Service. Don't miss the Spring Tune-up for horses and humans plus potluck on April 2nd. Watch Gary work through problems with horse and rider. There will be a Dutch oven potluck at noon with Caroline helping anyone that wants to learn Dutch oven cooking, so bring your Dutch oven, or bring ingredients and Caroline will help with one of hers. Gary 529-7242 or Caroline 531-7408."

Richard Tamcke was elected to the Club's Board of Directors for a two-year term in 2010. He was a Board member in 2009 as well. He is very active in

BCHM and helps about every committee formed for major events. He has also been the Club's Recreation Ride Chairman for the past three years. Richard enjoys training horses, skiing, back country camping and teaching horsemanship, trail ride project and packing to 4-H'ers in the community. Richard and his wife, Diane, are wonderful dancers and they're a treat to watch at the Membership Roundup each February. Richard tired from the U. S. Postal Service. He and Diane have one son and one daughter, three grandsons and one great-grandson. Richard says he joined BCH of Missoula because he was looking for riding partners.



Diane Tidwell: "A year older and not much wiser, I find myself revising my "profile" for the Feedbag. My horse ownership status has changed; if any of you remember ol' Walker, I had to put him down last spring. Seems like one is enough for me, yet Janie keeps looking over the fence for a partner, and I often would like to have a mount for friends. So I keep checking the ads and possibilities. A long time member of BCH, I have tried to find ways to get involved that keep me included in activities. Being part of the Social Committee certainly accomplishes that purpose. And since I don't have a pack horse and my physical skills are limited, volunteering to cook seems to be my best bet to be included on pack trips, which are the ultimate experience for me. I am also looking forward to being part of the Issues Committee. I'm grateful for the chance to contribute my two cents worth as a member of the Board, and an alternate representative on the State Board. As recreation demands on trails and "backcountry" become greater, it is comforting to know that there are efforts to protect and preserve them, and maybe I can help."



Thank you, members, for providing these profiles. Thank you also to Lola Mae, Michele, Don Dodge for photos.



**Mile High Back Country Horsemen
2011 Montana State Convention
March 25-27, 2011
Copper King Motel, Butte, MT**

This year's convention theme is "Rendezvous at the Divide: Where East Meets West." Raphael Cristy will perform **Charlie Russell's Yarns**. Workshops will offer a variety of back country topics by guest speakers. There will be general sessions, raffle, silent and live auctions, photo contest, vendors and a Saturday evening banquet at the Mine Shaft Lounge. Don't miss it!!

2011 Officers, Board and State Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Pres. Paul Evenson 251-2163
Vice-Pres. Ken Brown 721-3357
Sec'y. Jane Kelly 370-4363
Treas. Barbara Koepke 626-4351

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marianne Birenbaum, 2 Yr. 214-7575
Connie Long, Past Pres. 543-0528
Alan Meyers, 2 Yr. 360-2121
Michael Moore, 2 Yr. 370-7549
Herb Monk, 2 Yr. 549-8756
Richard Tamcke 1 Yr. 258-6621

STATE DIRECTORS

Smoke Elser, 1 Yr. 549-2820
Gary Salisbury, 2 Yr. 273-6967
Diane Tidwell, Alternate 273-0862

Committee Chairs

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education, Dan Harper 258-6467
Feedbag, Myra Mumma 542-7443
Horseman's Council, Mike Hartkorn 549-0527
Issues, Paul Evenson 251-2163
Membership & Website, Sandy Evenson 251-2163
Phone, Sara Wilson & Lola Mae LeProwse 251-4588
Projects, Dan Tuxbury & Michael Moore 883-9423
Publicity, Barbara Parker & Alan Meyers 370-7549
Recreation Rides, Richard Tamcke & Sandi Treadaway 544-9480
Social, Diane Tidwell & Lana Hamilton 360-2121
Sponsorship, Anna Tucker & Alan Meyers 259-6621
278-3459
273-0862
251-3456
273-3779
360-2121

Classified Ads

For Sale: St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services has Troxel equestrian helmets for sale. \$23. Contact Marianne B. at 214-7575

For Rent: Swan Valley Cabin with Horse Facilities, Photos and Info at www.missionmtgetaway.com. Contact Scott Tuxbury, 240-7902

Classes Offered: Wilderness Skills Training, 2 Sessions, April 29-May 1 and May 13-15. Contact Connie or Mack Long, 240-2722

National Trails Day

June 4, 2011

Plan to join us for the 2011 National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4th, 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Blue Mtn. Trailhead. We have a lot of fun putting up wall tents, eating good Dutch oven cooking, taking surveys, talking to hikers, bicyclists, birders, horsebackers, runners, dog walkers, etc. A work party will clean parts of Blue Mountain Trail that day. We hope to have a good showing of horsebackers from the club. This year's theme, "Made With All Natural Ingredients" encourages local groups and citizens to "experience, appreciate and celebrate the natural places where we can find a spread of scenery, a plateful of peace and a heap of happiness and health." (from American Hiking Society National Trails Day website.) Thanks to Barbara Koepke for organizing this event for the seventh year. She always needs volunteers. 626-4351



Check the 2011 class schedule at Ninemile Wildlands Training Schedule. www.fs.fed.us/rl/lolo/resources-cultural/nwtc. Classes fill up early, so sign up now.

Apr. 16	2011 Annual Meeting MT Wildlife Federation, Helena, MT
Apr. 30-May 1	2011 Annual Meeting MT Wilderness Assn., Gallatin Gateway, MT

MULE DAYS

May 24-29	Bishop Mule Days, Bishop CA
June 10-12	Montana Mule Days, Hamilton, MT
June 15-19	Jake Clark Mule Days, Powell, WY
Sept. 9-11	Hells Canyon Mule Days, Enterprise, OR

TO:

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.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

