



The Feedbag

MARCH 2012

Welcome

New Members:

Steve Cohee
Anna Cressler
Jeff & Audra Geneau
Carol & McKayla Graves
Jason Hanlon
Larry Henderson
Ron Hoff
Karl & Louise Joost
Brandy Kincheloe
Perri Knife
Kent & Charlene Krone
Trent & Polly Miller
Ted, Lynne, Tom Murphy
Nicole Olson
Jeff, Darlene, Audra Patterson
Madeline Rubida
Ruth Vanderbout
Ray & Brenda Woodside

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President's Message.....



As our now Past President and my mentor, Paul Evenson, pointed out in the last Feedbag we have had changes within the Club. Board member Connie Long, as the outgoing President, will no longer be on the Board. She always tried to keep us on track. She may have had more luck with some of her mules. Also Board members Marianne Birenbaum and Diane Tidwell are going off the Board. Marianne will be active in a new Mentorship Committee, a concept that she originated. Diane Tidwell, who was also our Social Committee Co-Chairman, will be leaving the Board and will no longer be on the Social Committee. Diane is very committed to the

Club and I am sure we will be calling on her to help us out. While Barb Koepke is newly elected to the Board, she was the Treasurer for last year. And she is a treasure! As I am finding, she also has an excellent memory that we are relying on. Jane Kelly was our Secretary. She is a true professional and started the practice of sending minutes out in e-mails for our review so we did not have to spend time at the meetings going over them. Jane will be a Board member this year. These folks have done a wonderful job for the Club. Please let them know that you appreciate their hard work the next time you see one of them.

Since the beginning of the new year the Club's Board of Directors and committees have been very active, sometimes meeting twice in one week. The Board of Directors have had a couple of planning meetings for the new year. The first meeting we reviewed what was working, what was not working so well and suggestions for changes. At our most recent meeting led by John Favro, we took the information from our first meeting and prioritized it into goals for 2012-14. Those goals are included in this newsletter on page 9.

The Membership Roundup last weekend was a fun-packed evening. Gary Salisbury and the rest of his committee put a lot of work into this event. The Club is very appreciative of all their hard work.

John Favro has arranged for an excellent program at the March 21 general membership meeting. Mike Robinson, farrier, will speak about founder: what it is, how to prevent it and how to treat it.

So, in closing, this is your Club. Let us as your Board know your thoughts and ideas. Jump in and get involved. You will never find a better way to spend your time nor a better bunch of people.

.....*Ken Brown, President*

Our Losses.....Our Club lost a dear member, Liz Sybrandt, on January 13th. Liz was an active member for many years, along with her husband Kirk and son Christian. The Club also lost Dave Jenkins on February 11th. Dave and Valerie were also very active in BCHM. Please remember these members and their families.

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
Mar. 10	Saw Training Classroom Course	John Favro, Mark Wright 531-2455
Mar. 30-Apr. 1	Montana Back Country Horsemen Annual Convention, Billings, p. 7	Details on p. 7 & www.bchmt.org
Mar. 31	Blackfoot Highway Cleanup	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
Apr. 7	Annual Spring Tuneup & Potluck, Basham Indoor Arena, 10:00	Gary Salisbury/Caroline Bauer, 529-7242
Apr. 14	Log & Water Crossing, Erskine Fishing Access, Frenchtown	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Apr. 15	Larry Creek Day Ride	Lana & Earl Hamilton, 251-3456
Apr. 21	Defensive Horse Safety, Harper Arena, 9:00 AM	Dan & Marjorie Harper, 258-6467
May 5-6	2nd Annual Rattlesnake Pack Trip, Limit 10 Riders	Ken Brown, 207-6067
May 12	Mount Jumbo Day Ride	Ken Brown, 207-6067
May 19	4th Annual Packing & Equestrian Skills Expo, Missoula Equestrian Park, see p. 7	Ken Brown, 207-6067
May 20	Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride	Dan & Marjorie Harper, 258-6467
June 2	National Trails Day, Blue Mtn. Trailhead, see p. 7	Barb Koepke, 626-4351
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, see p. 7	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, 258-6584
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, 258-6584
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, 258-6584
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., 2821 SO. RUSSELL ST., MISSOULA

2012 Officer Profiles

Ken Brown is the Club's President this year. Ken was Vice-President in 2011 and finished a two-year term on the Board of Directors in 2010. 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.



John Favro was voted Vice-President for 2012. John retired from the U.S. Forest Service in 2008 after a 35-year career. His last Forest Service position was Regional Trails Coordinator for the Northern Region. In that position he was the program manager for 25,000 miles of trails in 13 National Forests and Grasslands in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. He began his work with the Forest Service as a trail crew worker in California. In addition to managing ranger districts, he also worked in timber, wildlife, fire, range and managed trail programs in numerous locations in California and Alaska prior to moving to Montana. John has B.A. degrees in psychology and philosophy and has completed all course work for a B.S. in Natural Resource Management. He has taught classes on trail issues, construction and maintenance throughout the country and, during the summer of 2006, he assisted the country of Jordan as an advisor on trail and outfitter guide camp management. John currently does trail survey/design, trail consulting and teaches sustainable trail construction and maintenance, wilderness ethics, and crosscut saw certification. John is on the American Trails, the Continental Divide Trail Alliance, and the Friends of Ninemile Ranger Station Boards.



Dan Harper is Club Treasurer for 2012. He has served on several committees in the past. "I graduated in 1962 from Missoula County High School. After leaving Montana for education and military service, I couldn't wait to get back to Montana and my hobbies of back packing, fishing and hunting pheasants and elk. The back packing soon gave way to packing in with horses and mules, thanks to my wife, Marjorie, and to Smoke Elser. Now my favorite activity is saddling up Concho and the mules and pack-



ing into the Wilderness with my friends.

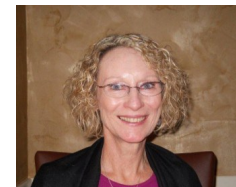
After 40 years as a pediatrician and advocate for children, I now have time to invest in great organizations including the Back Country Horsemen and the Montana Wilderness Association. Having served as President of the Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Vice Chair of the Community Medical Center Board of Directors, I have found that my greatest aspiration is striving for consensus, bringing people together. Let's get out on our horses and mules. Together we can get the job done.

2012 Board of Directors

Paul Evenson is on the 2012 Board as Past-President. He was President in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Before that he was Vice-President for two years. He was Issues Committee Chairman and on the Board of Directors in 2005 and 2006. He has held BCH of Montana positions, such as Education and Issues. 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. Paul packed supplies to FS look-outs, 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 needed packing into the Wilderness. He took his Karelian bear dog, Rikka, on these trips as well as other BCH 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 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."



Jane Kelly is on the Club's Board of Directors in 2012. She was Secretary in 2011 as well as helping on various committees. "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 16 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 nine 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. BCH of Missoula is a fine organization and a great bunch of people!"

Barbara Koepke was the Club's Treasurer in 2011, Board Director in 2010 and Treasurer in 2006 through 2009. This year will be her eighth as coordinator of National Trails Day on the first Saturday in June. "As a Director of our Chapter I want to help guide us to stay true to our Mission Statement while making sure we keep pace with any challenges that come along. I'd also like to help our newer members find their niche in our activities." Barb was born in western Pennsylvania—a coal miner's daughter and a Steeler's fan. Her training as a draftsman began at Gulf Oil Corporation's Research Lab where she drew all exploration maps. She and her husband moved California, New Mexico and Nevada.



Art went to college and built a career in the aerospace industry. Barb kept busy managing apartments, being Mom to Michele (Hutchins) and Diane, sewing most of the girls' clothing, being 4-H leader, community volunteer and earning a degree in Drafting Technology. She drafted plans for more than three dozen custom homes in Las Vegas. "One of my best memories from Vegas is getting my first horse. Her name was Abbi and we rode many miles. There were times and Michele and I galloped home just in time for her to catch the school bus!" If you visit Barb's Barabbi home you'll meet her pals, Rocky and Tana. "They're both half black lab and half crazy! Of course you'll walk down to the barn to say "Hi" to Sargent Peppy, Barabbi Sundance and Toby. Toby knew his way around the roping arena and calf pens with Fred Benefiel who was a BHCM member. Now Toby knows a bit more about back country trails and wilderness camping."

CLUB SPONSORS

James A. Flansburg Wildlife and Western Art
3495 Cathy Ct.
Missoula, MT 59803
543-6835

Old Timer Tack & Saddle, LLC
2425 Big Flat Rd.
Missoula, MT 59804
728-2262
Cell: 239-1514

Harley Hettick Photos
dxn3337@blackfoot.net
246-3526

Brite Signs
12020 Mullan Rd.
Missoula, MT 59808
542-5255

Pruyn Veterinary Hospital
2501 Russell
Missoula, MT 59801
829-8150

J. Mike Robinson Farrier
19456 Leo Hansen Rd.
Florence, MT 59833
499-0171

Pierce Flooring
1603 Brooks
Missoula, MT 59808
543-8224

All American Fencing
360-2121

K&L Forest & Garden
2000 South Ave. West
Missoula, MT 59801
721-3994

Big Sky Kubota LLC
7550 Thornton Dr.
Missoula, MT 59808
542-2200

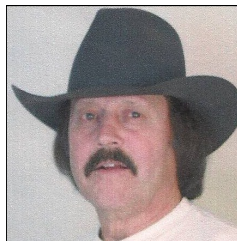
Black Mountain Farrier Service
1770 Mullan Trail
Missoula, MT 59808
207-2280

Alan Meyers has been a Director for the past four years. 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! Alan was raised in St. Ignatius, 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.

Herb Monk is a Board of Directors member on the last year of a two-year term. He is a retired Marine now employed as a forester. One of the highlights of working as a forester is 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. Herb and his wife Sue helped organize the BCH crews several times a year that currently maintain the "Adopt A Highway" stretch of road at Clearwater Junction.

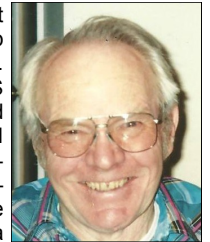


Mike Moore "My wife, Suzette, and our kids, Shanna and Colin, have been members of the Back Country Horsemen for about nine years. Members Neva Larson and Judy Ward encouraged us to join the Club. We cannot thank them enough for that. We have made so many new friends who have taught us so much about horses and riding in the back country. The kids have expanded their horizons and are active in rodeo. Shanna raced barrels last year and Colin, a senior in high school this year, team ropes and calf

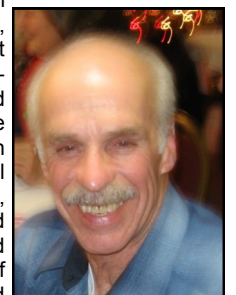
ropes. I am even learning to rope! I served three years as Secretary. I am currently in my fourth year as co-chair of the Projects Committee and in my second year of a two-year term on the Board of Directors. We thoroughly enjoy the projects and social rides."



Richard Tamcke was elected to the Club's Board of Directors this year and was a Board member from 2009 through 2011. 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 four years. Richard enjoys training horses, skiing, back country camping and teaching horsemanship, trail ride project and packing to 4-H members 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 retired from the US 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.

**2012 State Directors**

Mike Chandler Born in Iowa to a farm family, Mike got his first horse at the age of ten. The family moved to Maryland and on to New York state where he attended high school. After high school Mike and Nancy married, started a family and moved west. They landed in Missoula in the fall of 1963 where he enrolled at the University. In March and April of 1964, Smoke held his first packing class outdoors at the fairgrounds. Mike was one of the seven students instructed by Smoke, Howard Copenhagen, Herb & Bob Toelke, and Ferd Prochnow. Mike became Smoke's first packer/guide for hunting camp that fall. Mike worked trail crew seasonally for the USFS at 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 horsemen group that started in the Flathead in 1973, a group of Missoula horsemen met and started the Missoula chapter late that year. Working professionally as a realtor after



graduation, Mike helped 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 six years, and eventually became Vice-Chairman of the Montana State BCH ('98-99) 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 have been a very satisfying ride and Mike is really proud of all the ambitious people who have stepped up to serve and energize the Club in recent years.

Gary Salisbury was voted to the State Board of Directors to represent our Club for 2012. In 2010 he was State Alternate Director. Gary's past history with Back Country Horsemen of Missoula includes taking the presidency in 2004 when Bob Doty became ill. Gary was elected President in 2005 and 2006, then

elected as Alternate to the State Board of Directors. He was a State Board Director in 2008 and 2009 and Alternate in 2010. Gary has chaired the Annual Steak Ride for a number of years and he chaired the 2012 Membership Roundup. Gary and his wife Caroline have worked hard for BCHM for many years. Gary started



riding colts on 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 method of working with the horse and their thought processes ever since. He 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 his wife, Caroline, now own Salisbury Auction Service. **Don't miss** the Spring Tune-up for horses and humans plus a Dutch oven potluck on April 7th at Basham Arena between Lolo and Florence. This is an opportunity for members to learn horse safety and

Dutch oven cooking from two of the best.

Mack Long and his wife, Connie, have been members of Back Country Horsemen of Missoula for 16 years and members of the Cabinet Back Country Horsemen in Libby before moving to Missoula. Mack has BS degrees in Fish and Wildlife Biology and Administration of Justice. He has worked professionally for over 31 years managing, protecting and perpetuating the natural resources of Montana. During his years in fish and wildlife management throughout the State, he has been fortunate to work in every Wilderness Area in Montana. As a result, he has logged thousands of miles in the backcountry on horses and mules. Mack is also a Leave No Trace (Stock) Master Instructor and has taught Wilderness Skills since 2001. Both Connie and Mack are enthusiastic advocates for Wilderness protection and education. They have three grown children and two adorable grandsons, ages three and five.



Runaways and Blowouts: A Trip to the Chinese Wall

By Don Dodge

After coming off the Wall trail, my partner and I settled in a good camp site close enough to Indian Creek for water and bathing. Earlier we had encountered a couple men riding with poorly packed horses. One seemed to be a horseman by his posture and his partner was just along for the ride. They asked about a camp spot which we had no knowledge of. We had not spotted anything desirable since passing the "No Camping" sign where the trail descended from the Wall. Could there be something we missed, a small trail off through the brush? We wished them luck and continued "settling in." That evening a Forest Service employee doing a wood duck survey popped out of the brush by the creek, unexpected to say the least. Later we had a visit by a 70-year old lady on her halfway point of a through hike. She camped nearby and shared our dinner and conversation that evening.

We had picked the end of July into first week of August to get in between snow melt and fire season. We were geared tent and clothing wise expecting moderate to warm conditions. Leaving Lincoln for Benchmark a thunder storm developed. Dang, was this going to be a damp trip? Rolling along a mile or so out hot lightning struck directly ahead. Counting, it must have been a couple miles away. Sure enough when we crested a rise there was a solitary pine tree only a hundred yards off the highway, burning like a candle. It was raining hard then so we felt no need to stop. Thirty miles of dirt road out of Choteau was slower going. We pulled through the BCH horse camp that was still under construction, but it was still miles from the trail head. So we camped in the FS developed camp ground, and got filled in on the camping situation by a lady camper spending the summer with her horse. In the morning we drove past the airfield to the trailhead and parked for free in the non-designated trailer parking spots. On the trail we

had fair weather through Pretty Prairie to the North Fork Junction but my old horse Shigon had tripped and gone down just after passing a bad area, probably because I had loaded him heavier and cinched him too tight. So we switched the load to my partner's big horse Aero, and Shigon became a saddle horse for the rest of the trip.

We camped near the head of Moose Creek where there was little grass, but it is the only site around below the "No Camping Along the Wall" sign. It was obvious that others had come to the same conclusion. Unfortunately the next morning the clouds were so low that only the very bottom of the cliffs were visible. I had wanted to go north to My Lake to camp, but with the schedule and the cool damp day, we opted to continue south toward Indian Creek. This is where our hapless packers had a stroke of luck. The horseman came into camp afoot, as we were finishing breakfast, distraught and stressed. His horses had left dragging their lead ropes. His saddle horse dumped him three times then ran off. I told him I would go as far as the South Fork bridge and bring them back if I could. Trotting and slow galloping down the trail on Amos, it took a couple miles or so before I had them in sight. Next problem was how to get in front. I followed at a walk as close as possible without pushing them. They were snatching bites of grass along the way. I was hoping for an old trail cutoff, but there were none on that stretch. There is a small creek crossing and the trail widens out at the fork where a short trail goes up to the Indian Point cabin. I nonchalantly tried to ease around as the horses started to drink but off they went at a trot. "This is not looking good," I'm thinking as I am following now further behind. I can see them on the longer stretches and tried to close up a bit in between. In a couple more miles down the trail I see them and there are four backpackers holding them. After lots of thanks, I set to stringing them together. The lead ropes are big and stiff as I tie them into the tails. I put the first ringleader in front followed by the second ringleader, The horse with the bell snapped to his halter, third, with the saddled horse in the rear. The bell was reassuring. Twice his

lead rope slipped out of my knotted tail. Fortunately both times I spotted them still following, and was able to tie up and tie them back together. The second time I fished a piece of twine out of my saddle bag and made a secure but single strand tie point.

Back up the trail things were going smooth as I approached camp. Better swing off the trail and let my partner know, but at that point I realized the bell was silent. The horses were still hooked and following, best not worry about it and just keep going through the trees. At camp I stopped just long enough to tell the situation. Back on the trail I checked them as they crossed the creek, and things were going well. However after a mile or so I looked back to discover I only had two horses. Delivering two did not seem to be a good option, so I tied them up to separate trees and galloped back. Back through camp without catching up I informed my partner. Then back through the trees to the trail, and I found the bell. Galloping down the trail, Amos got a little squirrely, so I had to slow down a bit. Once again I was hoping to catch them near a shortcut, but they had a big lead. When I did finally get them in sight another mile or more below camp, they were walking. When I got closer I could see the lead horse bobbing his head repeatedly. He was standing with his hind foot in the big loop of his lead rope that had been through the loop of twine. Sometimes one gets lucky, but twice in one day?



South Fork of the Sun River near it's junction with the North Fork.photo by Don Dodge

Back in camp my partner volunteered to ride the saddled horse to make sure we had no more problems. It was much further than I expected, and his camp site.... Well! They had asked a backpacker about camping, and this dirt spot in the brush at a creek crossing was it!

After his profuse thanks we learned he had made such a trip before with rented horses in Three Forks. They were reliable and they stayed with each other. The owner insisted he feed them four quarts of grain every day, and that was the only feed

he packed. He had been around horses in New Jersey, but we surmised he did not need to care for them there. We told him to graze them on the good grass on top, and wished them luck, then returned to our camp.

The next day we packed out to the trailhead. Along the last few miles was a "Beware Grizzly" sign, due to the demise of a hapless mule, that gave me some trepidation. I finally spotted a cleared brush area with pink on the trees and knew the mule had been disposed of.

Back at the trailer parking, we loaded the horses in the four horse, only to discover a back tire was flat. Before we left town, we had a discussion about having three jacks taking up room in the tack compartment, but I was adamant and they stayed. The small trolley jack I grabbed first just could not get the loaded trailer high enough off the ground. I was able to use the bottle jack on the frame to get the tire changed. Thirty miles of dirt and gravel ahead but I still had a full sized spare, and a funky space saver that would be better than nothing. Rolling along as evening approached, we neared the junction half way back to Choteau. There ahead was an SUV pulled ahead of a travel trailer with people standing around. This poor family with a new SUV had a blowout. Attempting to change it, the car slipped and pinned the jack under the loose flat. About as bad a predicament as one could have. I had to use the receiver hitch for the handyman as the bumper was plastic. I dared not jack it off the remaining rear tire, so I retrieved the little trolley jack. That was just low enough to get the brake drum off the tire and the axle high enough to get their spare on. For the second time this trip I tried to refuse money, but after a couple refusals it is impolite to keep refusing.

Rolling along in the dusk down the road I was explaining that these rocks on gravel roads don't respect new tires, and deep tire tread seems to grab sharp pointed rocks kicked up by the tire in front. That was the point where a blast came from the rear trailer tire. Once again unloading horses was not a good option. The handyman jack with a cheater pipe got the loaded trailer up. Back to Choteau it was dark, we needed gas and the gas station was closed. My partner suggested the bar, and it was open. A patron that lived behind the bar volunteered an air pump that got the leaker useable for a better spare. We were able to have some food and buy a drink for the patron. We also found out it was possible to fuel with a credit card, so we were able to make it home late that night. A successful and safe trip that took preparedness, knowledge and skill from both of us.



Past President Paul Evenson Honored; Awarded by Ken Browna Don Dodge Photo

2012 Membership Roundup, Feb. 25th

.....by Gary Salisbury

The Lolo Community Center was jam-packed last Saturday—over 160 people! The program included a history of BCH of Missoula given by Gary and an interpretation of our Mission Statement by both Barb Koepke and Gary. The Gwen Thibodeau Band was WONDERFUL! Gary thanks all of his committee and members for working so hard to make this evening special. In the picture left, Ken Brown presented Paul Evenson with a Back Country Horsemen buckle for his years of hard work for the Club. Paul was President for three years and serves on many committees. This award was for a job well done. Thank you, Paul!

Ninemile Wildlands Training Center still has some openings for the season. Linda Carlson says a couple of the classes are full but there are openings in others. Call the Ninemile Ranger District at 626-5201. The Ninemile Wildlands Training Center website is <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/lolo/>

**Montana Wilderness Association
2012 Annual Gathering
April 27-28
Helena, MT**

A weekend filled with speakers, awards, displays, entertainment, friends, food and fun. Full schedule online at www.wildmontana.org

**Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo
May 19, 2012
Missoula Equestrian Park**

Fourth Annual Packing & Equestrian Skills Expo. 10 am to 5 pm at the Missoula Equestrian Park. All events are FREE to the public! Parade of Breeds. Vendors, Food, Displays. Educational events held all day will include Basic Horse Handling Safety, a Packing Demo with Smoke Elser, Veterinary Demos and a Kid's Area. Displays include a Leave No Trace Campsite. Planning Committee meets every second Wednesday at 6:30, ORI. Call Ken Brown, 207-6067, for more info.

**Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Convention
March 30-April 1
Billings Hotel & Convention Center**

Keynote Speaker: Tom Schmidt, Deputy Regional Forester, Region 1
Workshops
Commercial Vendors
Federal and State Agency Displays
Live & Silent Auctions
Door Prizes
Mile High Award—Crosscut Saw Competition
Photo Contest
Entertainment
For more information visit the State Web Site: <http://www.bchmt.org>

Please Renew Your 2012 Membership by March or you will be dropped from the BCH of Missoula membership.

**2012 National Trails Day
June 2nd
Blue Mountain Trailhead**

The 2012 National Trails Day will be held on Saturday, June 2nd. This year's theme is "America's Largest Trailgating Party." Each year events are held to help promote awareness of the many and varied benefits that trails provide, to encourage people to use their own local trails and to encourage citizens to stay abreast of trail issues. This year is the 20th anniversary of National Trails Day. Each year Back Country Horsemen of Missoula celebrate this annual event by setting up a back-country camp, greeting trail users and cleaning trails at Blue Mountain Trailhead. Barb Koepke has organized this event for the seventh year. If you would like to help out, please call her at 626-4351.

**Father's Day Steak Ride
Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range
June 17, 2012**

Ride and BBQ. Committee is meeting the last Wednesday of each month, 6:30 PM at ORI. Call Paul Evenson, 529-3043

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services offers Troxel equestrian helmets for sale. \$23.00. Contact Marianne Birenbaum, 214-7575 or e-mail her at eiranne@vzw.blackberry.net

FOR RENT: Horse pasture for one animal near the Equestrian Park. Call Mike Buckley, 240-6604

FOUND: Wine book and folk music CD's were left in Diana Olmstead's truck at the Christmas Party. Call her at 210-0658

GIVE AWAY: Several issues of *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*. 1993-2004. Call Myra at 542-7443

SMOKE'S CD IS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE MONTANA PBS STATION ON CAMPUS. IT IS LONGER WITH MORE INFORMATION THAN THE TV DOCUMENTARY.

Harmony Stables
Dave Harmon
3500 Duncan Dr., Missoula
542-1625
harmony-stables@hotmail.com

Shane Clouse Enterprises
1400 Wyoming St.
Missoula, MT 59801
shane@shaneclouse.com
370-4487

Les Schwab Tire Center
2800 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59808
721-1770

AllBrands Appliance Service
2825 Stockyard \$d #H-1
Missoula, Mt 59808
543-8149

Colyer & Sons Billiards
19175 Leo Hanson Dr.
Florence, MT 59833
273-4732

Dry Creek Saddlery
6230 St. Thomas Dr.
Missoula, MT 59803
251-2163
evenson@montana.com

Michael T. Speake Woodworking
251-6087
531-5108

AxMen
7655 Hwy. 10 West
Missoula, MT 59808
728-7020
www.axmen.com

Marjorie Harper Watercolors
3000 Marshall Canyon
Missoula, MT 59802
258-6467

Blue Mountain Veterinary Clinic
4646 Buckhouse Ln.
Missoula, MT 59804
251-4150
www.bluemountainvethospital.com

Party America
2230 No. Reserve
Missoula, MT 59808
327-0502

V. W. Ice, Inc.
2003 Garfield St.
Missoula, MT 59801
728-9530

KT's Hayloft Saloon
Hayloft Graphics & Design
Lolo, MT 59847
273-2037

Stitches
Embroidery & Screen Printing
1001 No. Russell
Missoula, MT 59808
549-2632

Lolo Glass, LLC
P. O. Box 667
Lolo, MT 59847
273-0173

Crazy Horse Consignment
6555 Hwy. 12 W.
Lolo, MT 59847
273-4223

Tian Long Acupuncture Clinic
1905 W. Sussex
Missoula, MT 59801
240-4545

BCH of Montana State Board Meeting Highlights December 10, 2011

Montana Back Country Horsemen Board met at Ruby's Inn in Missoula at 10:00. All officers were present and there was a quorum of the board present with 27 directors attending and three participating by teleconference.

National Directors' Reports: Chuck Miller and Dave Crawford, who are National BCH Directors, reported that the Chairman BCH of America (BCHA) indicated there might be a movement toward a dues increase. Hopefully the State Directors and members will write to National Directors to let them know we are against an increase in our dues and we need a better accounting from BCHA. Perhaps this should be put into the form of a resolution. Regional Forester, Region I, Leslie Weldon is being transferred to the Washington, D. C. office. Smoke Elser's "Three Miles An Hour" PBS documentary has had great feedback. The State website has a link to the documentary. Dave Crawford will be writing a resolution based on HR 1505, the "National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act."

Committee Reports: Merlyn Huso is BCH of MT rep for the Rocky Mountain Front Coalition. The main players in this organization are MT Wilderness Assn., MT Wildlife Federation and MT Wilderness Society. Director Kurt Dyer presented additional issues: The Canadian Province of BC okays a law protecting the Flathead. The horse slaughter house bill, which is within HB 2112, will be coming up for vote. It is being pushed by Montana's legislative delegation. BCH of MT will take no stance on this but individual members are welcome to comment. Director Mark Himmel presented additional issues: Swimming Woman Rd. in the Big Snowy Mountains where a landowner was closing off access was reversed and the county was successful in maintaining access. Petition to withdraw equine antibiotics by an environmental group was denied petition by the FDA. State Expansion and Membership Committee reported that the Kootenai BCH voted to terminate their club. Travel Plans Committee was presented by Mack Long. It's important for individual chapters to continue working with local travel plans because of increased controversy over motorized vs. non-motorized trails. Stay involved.

Charlie O'Leary said a group called Wildland CPR is a great resource on travel planning.

Under Unfinished Business: Deb Schatz reported on a new Mountain Manners Handbook. Each chapter in the state will receive one box. BCH of MT is down to two bronze belt buckles and ten silver buckles. A motion carried to order two dozen belt buckles. New BCH of MT Constitution handbooks have been printed. The Center for Wildlife Information, Chuck Bartlebaugh, has put together a booklet to help reduce human and grizzly conflicts which they are hoping BCH of MT will contribute to. No action taken on request. John Favro is the newest board member for the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) and believes he will be the MT rep on the board.

New Business: HR 1505 was discussed. A Rehberg mailing was discussed. If you haven't commented, don't let the opportunity pass. You can comment by phone and you can track the bill on www.govtrack.us, type "adjournment." HR 1581, Roadless and Wilderness Area Release, was discussed. A letter was sent by BCH of MT earlier and a recent response from Max Baucus was read.

Other Business: A motion made to give a retirement gift to Bob Hoverson, Ninemile Ranger District carried. Reimbursement such as for mileage to BCH of MT volunteers was discussed. Paul Evenson reported on 2012 Forest Service Projects. He said the USFS wants some boards replaced at Monture. No date has been set. Another project is the Falls Creek Bridge scheduled for either August or September. Contact Paul if you're interested in helping on these projects.

The next BCH of MT Board meeting will be held March 30, 2012, at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center in Billings.

OFFICERS

Pres. Ken Brown	207-6067
Vice-Pres. John Favro	864-8644
Sec'y.	
Treas. Dan Harper	258-6467

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Kelly, 2 Yr.	370-4363
Barbara Koepke, 2 Yr.	626-4351
Alan Meyers, 1 Yr.	721-2121
Michael Moore, 1 Yr.	370-7549
Herb Monk, 1 Yr.	549-8756
Richard Tamcke, 2 Yr.	258-6621
Paul Evenson, Past Pres.	251-2163

STATE DIRECTORS

Mike Chandler	549-7639
Gary Salisbury, 1 Yr.	273-6967
Mack Long, Alternate	240-2722

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	
Mentorship, Marianne Birenbaum	214-7575
Phone, Sara Wilson	251-4588
Projects, Dan Tuxbury & Michael Moore	883-9423 370-7549
Publicity, Barbara Parker & Alan Meyers	544-9480
Recreation Rides, Richard Tamcke	258-6621
Social, Barbara Parker	544-9480
Sponsorship	

THOSE MULES

By Dr. Dan Harper

A mule is a cross with a horse mare (having 64 chromosomes) and donkey jack (having 62 chromosomes). The offspring is a hybrid animal with 63 chromosomes, the mule. The mule is sterile. A mule is often somewhat taller than either parent due to the "hybrid vigor." The donkey is classified mostly by size due to unclear ancestry with the smallest 36 inches at the withers called miniature donkeys and the largest called mammoth donkeys standing more than 56 inches at the withers. The other classes include small standard, standard, and large



standard donkeys. While it would not be incorrect to classify mules by the same size classification, mules are usually classified as miniature, riding or draft type and measured at the withers in "hands" just like a horse. Thus a big, tall mule might be referred to as a 16-hand draft type mule. Most of the mules in common use for packing and riding come from mammoth jacks and draft breed mares.

At times the mare (not surprisingly) is not impressed with the jack and vice versa. Artificial insemination is frequently used. The gestation for a mule foal can be up to one month longer than for a horse foal. The actual delivery of a mule foal is easier for the mare because the mule foal has narrower shoulders.

Mules are fed just like horses but tend to eat more slowly than a horse. Mules are less likely to eat their way into trouble (founder) and are willing to eat a more varied diet (including fence posts). Studies have shown that mules are smarter and stronger than either donkeys or horses, yet the mule will almost always be submissive to any horse. The mule's attraction to a trusted horse is an advantage on pack trips. Keeping the trusted horse tied will insure that the mules will stay close by.

When facing an aggressor (like a dog or bear), the mule may choose to fight (like a donkey) with teeth and hooves or turn and run (like a horse). When a mule does bolt it will usually stop and turn around after a short run. The propensity to "protect the herd" allows mules to guard against predators, but the same instinct on the other hand can cause some mules to be very aggressive toward newcomers in the herd. One must be very cautious in introducing a new foal into a herd with mules. Severe injury can occur.

Mules with hybrid vigor tend to be healthier than horses, with fewer hoof problems and can frequently be worked until age 30 or so. Some will live to age 40 years. The "look things over" approach helps prevent injuries to mules.

Mules with their inclination to think things out can be best described as having "personality." This comes when the mule figures things differently than the human. While mules may take longer than horses to warm up to the human, in the end the mule will likely develop a stronger mule-human bond.

Missoula Backcountry Horsemen Board of Directors Develops Club Goals

By John Favro, Vice President

I have always felt that to best serve the members, your Board needed to have specific, measurable goals for the Club to achieve during the next two years. The Board agreed with this idea. During February your Board had two retreats. At the first retreat we brainstormed what was working for the Club, what was not working and areas we need to improve. From these lists, your Board developed fifteen possible goals. At our second retreat we decided to work on accomplishing the following ten goals during the next two years. These goals were developed for the whole Club to achieve. The Board did assign some people to work on some of these goals. However, we need your help. If you see any of these goals that you would like to work on, we urge you to contact Ken or the person listed below. For goals that do not have a name, we are looking for a member to head up accomplishing that goal. WE NEED YOUR HELP to make our club the best it can possibly be.

Missoula Backcountry Board Goals 2012 thru 2014

Prepared 2/15/2012

501 C3 - Herb Monk, Alan Meyers, Chris Nygren, Dan Harper

Establish board budget - Dan Harper

Develop a policy for selection of delegates to the State convention - John Favro

Update Club website

Develop membership committee (to get members more involved in club meetings, committees and events) - Marianne Bierenbaum

Develop a strategic plan for the club - a broadly defined plan aimed at creating a desired future

Review committees and chairs - committee size, duties, and need for new committees

Do an expo event for kids in 2013 - Smoke Elser and Richard Tamcke

Provide more volunteer recognition and awards

Start a committee to put on the 2014 State convention - Mark Wright and Connie Long

Sportland Trailer Sales & Service 12787 Hwy. 93 S. Lolo, MT www.sportlandtrailers.com 273-6561
Trader Brothers 16490 Old Hy. 93 South Lolo, MT 59847 273-3555
Cam Lytle Horseshoeing 24000 US Hwy. 93 N. Arlee, MT 59821 370-0249
Barth Custom Knives 625 No. Grove Missoula, MT 59804 396-6526
Mountain West Coop 4570 N. Reserve Missoula, MT 59808 www.cenexmontana.com 543-8383

Holt Heritage Museum Bill & Ramona Holt P. O. Box 129 Lolo., MT 59847	Pfau Feeds 2701 Eastside Hwy. Stevensville, MT 59870 777-5866
Culver's Foreign Car Service Inc. 2302 McDonald Ave. Missoula, MT 59801 721-5857	T. R. Marinan Co. Truck Accessories & Trailer Parts 5680 Expressway Missoula, MT 59806 549-4243
Western Montana Equine Service 4414 Deschamps Ln. Missoula, MT 59808 728-5667	Crawford's Auto & Motorsports 2504 W. Broadway Missoula, MT 59808 542-7705

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 Missoula
 Visit Us On the Web:
bchmt.org/missoula*



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