



FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

September 2005

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From the President's Pen.....

Whew! What a busy season it has been, but it's been a great one. The 2005 season has been highlighted by the many projects and rides that were so successful this year, including the Boyd Mountain Ride, Father's Day Steak Ride at the Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range, the Foresters' Ride to the Great Burn Roadless Area and many others. Clearly, all of this year's rides and projects send a strong message about BCH commitment to our mission of sharing specialized knowledge and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness trails, of helping various agencies maintain and manage our public lands, of promoting wise and sustained use of public land and of working to ensure that public lands remain open to traditional uses. The responsibility of this voice has been rewarding. BCH is respected and is considered a valuable resource by public land agencies and by other conservation groups. This is what our founding fathers had in mind when BCH was originally founded (*Back Country Horsemen of America History*) in 1973 in the Flathead Valley. It is so exciting for me as your President to fast-forward through the years and know that we as an organization are still on-track with what the founding fathers envisioned.

How does this all happen? Through you as BCH members. The level of commitment and knowledge each of you willingly give is truly awesome. A prime example of BCH members pulling together was this year when the caterers didn't come through for the Father's Day Steak Ride. Caroline and I are so appreciative of you all helping feed those 80 people! I'm proud of MBCH, proud to be a member of MBCH and I'm proud to be your president! I wish you good health, much happiness and safety in and out of the saddle. 🐾

Horses put people together, people from all different fields. They are the great equalizer.....João Oliveira

Gary Salisbury

MBCH Summer Pot Luck

by Becky Rohwer

The Missoula Club held their annual summer pot luck on August 17th at the Missoula Equestrian Park. The weather wasn't great for it because it was a little windy but we never got wet. Turn out was pretty good and the food was great! Thanks to all that came and contributed.

There were a couple of items that seemed to get rave reviews and recipes were requested. So here they are.

Caroline's Corn on the Cob

Go buy corn at Safeway – shuck corn and put in large pot to transport to the pot luck.

Set up propane burner stove. Gather five people around it to shelter from the wind to get it lighted.

Put two large pots of water on the finally lit burners to heat up.

Keep people gathered around the stove to protect a blow out from the wind.

Munch on Texas Caviar and corn chips while waiting. (See recipe below)

When Texas Caviar is all gone and water is almost to a boil, add corn to pots.

Toss steaks on the grill. When the steaks are ready so is the corn. Enjoy!

Texas Caviar

- 2 cans Black Beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can corn or about 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 can chopped tomato with green chilies
- 2 ripe avocados chopped
- 1 green pepper chopped
- ½ purple onion chopped
- 1 t. Garlic, chopped
- 1 T. Salad Oil
- 1 T. Lime Juice
- 1 T. Red Wine Vinegar
- 1 t. Tabasco or to taste
- 1/8 t. Black Pepper

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Enjoy with corn chips.

I've been told this is also a great topping on a grilled burger, or to make into a salad add a couple cups of chopped cabbage. 🐾

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BRIDLE REINS

.....from *Songs of the Saddlemen* by S. Omar Barker

You've studied quite a bit, I'll bet, about the bits you've bought,
But bridle reins is something that you've never give much thought.
Of course you want 'em limber, so they're easy in your hand,
And strong enough to tie a bronc that ain't learned how to stand.
The dude, he pushes on the reins to make his cayuse go,
But cowboys kinder lift 'em and their ol' cowhorses know
It's time to git a-movin'; and you know a horse is done
When bridle reins can't lift him to a sudden lope or run.
You see a man that ties the reins and droops 'em on the horn--
You know he's sure a tenderfoot and not a cowboy born,
For punchers ride with open reins, that if they do git throwed,
Won't ketch and tangle in their spurs and drag 'em down the road.

Some likes them chains that jingle where they fasten to the bit,
While braided reins look fancy, but they ain't no benefit.
In fact there's just one argument on reins that's worth a snort,
And that is: do you like 'em long or do you like 'em short?
A six foot rein may do for some, but me, I like 'em long,
And boys, I've got my reasons, be they right or be they wrong!
The eight foot rein's my favorite, and will be till I die,
For when a horse starts pitchin' and he sails me up so high
That eight foot reins won't reach me and the ends slip through my
hand,

I know it's time to start to look for some good place to land! 🐾

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WORK PROJECTS

by Nancy Stevens

Missoula BCH Club is involved in so many work projects this summer that it's hard to keep up with them all, but I'll try! Our first big shindig was the National Trails Day Blue Mountain event that was organized by Barb Koepke. This was a huge success, with a lot of Club participation. The parking lot was cleaned and trails from the parking lot to the lookout were cleared. The Bitterroot Draft Club brought work horses to harrow the fields near the parking lot. Passing hikers and riders filled out over 100 questionnaires on suggestions for improvements, such as a bigger parking lot! The club fed excellent chili and corn bread, courtesy of Theresa Joseph, to all who showed up. The dogs even got dog biscuits! There were so many club members coming and going that I couldn't keep track, but participants included Paul Evenson, Don Bohne, Mike Chandler, Don and Claudia Barth, Dan Tuxbury, Don Schusted, Nancy Stevens, Mike Hartkorn, Keith Guschausky and, of course, Barb Koepke. Barb did such a tremendous job of putting the whole thing together. Thanks to all who worked so hard on this event.

Also in June, Dan Harper and Don Barth cleared the Stuart Peak Trail in the Rattlesnake. Kirk and Liz Sybrandt (son of Christian), Rick Sherman, Mike Chandler, Nancy Stevens and Keith Guschausky took on the Monture Trail clearing project. They stayed at Burnt Cabin. The trails to Limestone Pass and to Hahn Pass were cleared and we also cleaned out a mouse-infested cupboard in the cabin. Meanwhile, Pat and Charles Culver, Don Dodge and Jack Reneau worked on the Falls Creek Trail and the Lodgepole Trail.

Paul Evenson and Dan Tuxbury have made a couple of resupply trips to lookouts on the east side of the Bob Marshall. Kirk Sybrandt has really been keeping his mules busy by packing in Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists on several projects and also helping Paul resupply Patrol Lookout.

Project Chairman Keith Guschausky came down with a severe case of strep throat and was laid up for nearly a month, but he still managed to keep us and the stock running! July 7-9, Mack and Connie Long, Kirk, Don Schusted and Nancy took seventeen head of stock from the North Fork Trailhead into the Danaher Cabin. We hauled lumber and construction supplies to repair damage to the cabin from a marauding grizzly bear who had ripped a hole in the wall and sampled everything edible and nonedible inside.

This was a real packing challenge. We hauled eight-foot planks, concrete blocks, cement, lime, paint and stove pipe. We got a real lesson in lumber bunk use with three mules loaded down with boards. We told everyone we met we were going to build a cabin! The mules and packers did great. We didn't have enough stock to get all the supplies in, but what we did take arrived in good shape and we had no "wrecks" or injuries to stock or humans. The day we arrived at Danaher Cabin the grizzly had been there, ripping into the cabin again. We patched up the hole and did some clean-up work inside. What a mess! Every pot, pan, cupboard and grocery item had been sampled. There was a fresh pile of bear poop outside which contained aluminum. It's true what they say about belt buckles!

Boy, was Keith steamed he couldn't go on this project. He had to stay home and worry about us. He ran up his phone bill keeping track of our movements through the

Forest Service. He knew where we were and what we were doing before we did!

On July 10-12, Nancy Stevens and Brendt and Nancy Stoverud made a grocery run from North Fork Trailhead up to the Limestone Forest Service trail crew. We got "moosed" by a big bull in camp, which livened things up for awhile.

In late July, Keith crawled of his sick bed (he said he was tired of looking at his toes) and joined Kirk and Brendt to pack in some retired smokejumpers to Shanly Creek. They returned the following week to pick the smokejumpers up. Christian and Liz also joined the trip.

Keith and Nancy did two more grocery runs to the Limestone trail crew. Dry ice does an impressive job!

Paul and Kirk and Christian and several East Slope BCH members packed thirty sacks of hay cubes from Benchmark over Stadler Pass to Basin Cabin.

We haven't counted up the volunteer trail miles the Club has put in yet. We are still packing as this is being written--but it's an impressive amount. Thanks to all those who helped and contributed stock. Thanks to Smoke for the use of Homer and Manhattan, who, at the time this was written, were getting ready to haul more bagels and broccoli up to the hungry trail crew at Limestone. Great job, everyone!

**Contact Keith Guschausky,
Project Chairman,
543-7957, for future projects**

**GARY REMINDS US THAT THE
LEGISLATURE WILL SOON BE
RECONVENING. BCH WILL
BE BUSY FOLLOWING THEIR
ACTIVITIES.**

Leave No Trace - Hunting in Bear Country

by Smoke Elser

The Threatened and Endangered Species Act of 1974 has created a unique situation in our wilderness areas and back country. Now we are not allowed to hunt grizzlies - and we must protect all unnatural sources of food from them. Camping in grizzly country requires special techniques to protect the resource and still be in elk country.

First, hunting in grizzly country may require you to obtain bear resistant containers. These containers vary in weight from 15 to 23 pounds per box. A second alternative is to hang your food at least 10 feet high and 4 feet away from any structure. In alpine country or in lodgepole this is very difficult. There is one other option. You can assign a person eighteen years old or older to be in the camp at all times. This means he cannot roam out to get fire wood or tether the horses but must be physically in camp with the bear attractants. These attractants are any human foods, any pellets or molasses coated stock feed. This is only valid in the Northern Grizzly Bear Eco System. Those are the three easiest options you have when camping in bear country.

One other alternative is to use an electric fence. This must have at least seven wires, including two ground wires. This is difficult to set up, especially in high rocky country, as well as bulky to pack. You would set this up around your food supply.

The first alternative, bear resistant containers, is pretty expensive. The boxes range from \$250.00 to \$450.00 per box. Yes, you can buy a military box for approximately \$75.00. However, by the time you make the necessary modifications to meet the bear resistant standards it adds another \$100 - \$150.00 per box.

The second alternative, hanging your food, is difficult. One of our members, Don Dodge, developed a good pulley system, which works if you have proper structures to hang it. Another BCH member in Billings, developed another system with hooks that you hook around two lodgepole

pinces or limbs to suspend your food with this system. The major drawbacks to both methods are that you handle the ropes and must tie them off somewhere. We have learned that grizzlies detect this rope and attack it, dropping your food. The last thing is that you must get the bottom of your food at least 10 feet above the ground. This includes elk or deer--any game that you might have killed.

The third option is to have someone in camp eighteen years of age or older. If you are like most hunting parties going to the hills, everyone wants to hunt. That makes this practice a little difficult. I personally don't mind staying in camp, but invariably I drift off to take care of horses or cut firewood or I am attracted to leave the camp.

The last option is the electric fence. This particular fencing system is fairly expensive and requires some very careful set up. The plastic poles are difficult to drive in high country, as well as the steel grounding rods which must be driven deeply into the ground and the surrounding ground must be moistened virtually every day.

Camping in bear country in the Southern Eco System (Yellowstone Park) has made hunting an athletic sport, in that, when you shoot an elk in this country it is like ringing the dinner bell for the bears to come. Generally within a very few hours, bears arrive at your kill site. For this reason, outfitters and hunters in this area have learned to take pack stock with them and commence the butchering and transporting of game immediately.

In the Northern Eco System, this has not been a major problem, as of yet. However, there are a few things that we should mention that might prevent this from happening in this area. When removing the entrails from game animals, we advise using a tarp, (an old military poncho, works great), putting the entrails in this, tying a rope around it and dragging it far as you possibly can down hill away from the animal. This will quite often keep bears away for a few additional hours. Of course, it is required that you must remove entrails from any trail where people may stumble across a bear on this food source.

If you can, hang the quarters after you have butchered the game, ten

feet high and four feet away from any structure. Note--black bear quite often can retrieve these even at this distance. As we all know, black bears can climb and grizzlies generally cannot. However, young grizzlies can climb very easily. The best option is, of course, to remove the carcass within a few hours of the hill and clear the area.

As you can see, camping and hunting in bear country has become more difficult. With this in mind, a clean camp, and clean camp kitchen is a must. The manner in which you set up camp is very important to protect the food source. This means not on a bear trail or where there is a lot of bear sign. It is suggested that setting up your camp with your cooking area 100 yards from your sleeping area and your storage facilities for your food 100 yards from both your food source and sleeping area is a good design. This is called a camp triangle and in my opinion, this is kind of a "trap" triangle. When I set up my camp, and I store my food 100 yards away from camp and then arrive late at night from an all day hunt, I go through the dark to retrieve my food. Of course, after cooking and eating, I take the food back to this site--and the same in the morning, when I'm trying to get out hunting very early. In a heavily bear populated area, this leaves me very vulnerable to bear attack especially in the dark. In my opinion, a concentrated camp, with lots of human activity, in a very small area, with my food either hung or in bear boxes, is the better option.



You should all be aware that your club does have bear resistant boxes and stove units for rent, for a nominal fee. Contact your club president for more information on this.

Camping in bear country is getting more difficult all the time as our bear population is increasing. However, with a few precautions you can still hunt and camp in bear country and be safe. Have a good hunt! 🐾

**Next Meeting: September 21 at 7:30 p.m.
at Fish, Wildlife & Parks on Spurgin Road**

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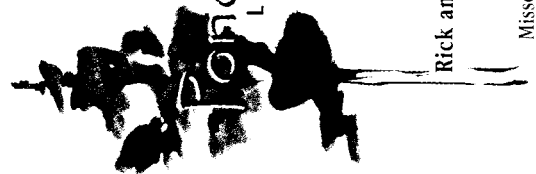
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mission!



2005 Foresters' Ride

by Chuck Miller, BBCH

The 2005 Foresters' Ride, July 20-22, 2005, was one of several annual rides. About 30 participants met at Clearwater Crossing on the Lolo National Forest. Those present were a combination of Montana BCH, Idaho BCH, Forest Service employees and a Senatorial representative. Some of the participants were: Dave Crawford, Montana BCH, Terry Steiner, Idaho BCH and Merlyn Huso, BCH of America, and other BCH members. Representatives of District Office, Supervisor's Office and Regional Forester's Office of the Forest Service included Kathy McAllister, Tom Puchlerz, Debbie Austin, Dave Bull, Joanie Packard, Bob Hoverson, to name a few. Larry Andersen represented the office of Senator Conrad Burns.



Ride day started with a fantastic Dutch oven breakfast by Colleen Sloan who teaches Dutch oven cooking across the United States, including the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center. She also has several books published about Dutch oven cooking—we were fortunate to have her and her seasoned Dutch ovens along!

Fifteen riders made the seven mile trip to the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness Area. Destination was the Greenwood Cabins, previously privately-held property that was purchased by the Forest Service. Bob Hoverson of the Ninemile Ranger District gave a history of the purchase. He told the group that the Forest Service removed all but two of the most historic buildings.

That evening after a steak dinner, campfire discussion included the status of the Great Burn management, continued use of saddle and pack stock, maintenance and reconstruction of trails, restitution of trails after fires, documentation of the area history and Forest Service policy of outsourcing. This down time around the campfire was very constructive and included an exchange of views, proposed changes in administrative policy, mutual concerns and how we could all work together better.

Thanks to all the MBCH and BBCH members who made this project so successful!

THE GREAT BURN ROADLESS AREA

by Myra Mumma

The Great Burn Roadless Area is on the border between Idaho and Montana in the Bitterroot Mountains. It is a classic example of the beauty of natural fire recovery from 1910 forest fires. The forests of Western hemlock, cedar, larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir have regenerated in the Great Burn. Some thirty mountain lakes are nestled in huge glacial basins throughout the Great Burn area.

Through efforts of the citizens of Montana and Idaho, including BCH members, the Lolo and Clearwater National Forests now administer 224,000 acres as "proposed wilderness." The Great Burn has been included in nine wilderness bills introduced in Congress between 1984 and 1992, none of which have become law. In the late 1980's, a bill that would have made the Great Burn a wilderness area passed both the House and the Senate but was "pocket vetoed" by then President Reagan.



Some of the controversy includes issues such as snowmobile use, ATV use, ecosystem integrity and opposition to setting aside more wilderness.

Both the Lolo and Clearwater Forest Plans will soon be revised. The Lolo National Forest held public meetings for input in Spring 2005. According to the Information Office on the Lolo National Forest, a draft forest plan should be out in late October. The public will be given 90 days to comment after that. *(Photo courtesy Bob Clark)*

Back in the Saddle

by Jack Reneau

A year ago this past April my wife, Susan, and I paid a visit to the National Bison Range near Moise, Montana. It's one of our favorite places to visit because of the variety of wildlife that can be observed. However, we were there to visit with the assistant refuge manager that day on a business matter.

As we drove up to the barn, we both noticed a dapple gray gelding tied to the hitching post out front. Neither of us could help but admire this horse. Not only was it a nice looking horse, but it had a special "air" about itself that made it stand out from other horses. As we approached the horse to "check-it-out," Dave Wiseman, the refuge manager and a personal friend of ours, walked out of the barn.

Susan said to David, "That sure is a nice looking horse. Whose is it?"

Dave responded, "He's mine, and he's for sale. I've accepted a position in Denver, and we can't take him with us."

Dave told us his name was Skamp and we both admired him for awhile before going about our business. As we headed down the road, Susan suddenly asked me, "How would you like me to buy that horse for you for our 30th wedding anniversary? I have made enough money from the sales of my book to buy it for you if you want it."

Well, I have to tell you, this was a total shock to me. I hadn't owned a horse since 1973. Back in 1970 I purchased a grulla named Maverick from Colorado State University's riding stables where I took riding lessons and a course on packing and outfitting. As a veteran, these courses satisfied my physical education requirements.

I had hoped to use Maverick for hunting, but that never happened. I was a starving, nonresident college student and couldn't afford the truck and trailer

needed to haul him around. However, I got lots of experience riding him several times a week in the foothills west of Fort Collins.

When I graduated in 1973, I had to part trails with Maverick. I had asked my future wife to marry me, and we were moving to Kentucky where I had been offered a job on the Daniel Boone National Forest. The proceeds from the sale of Maverick and six large beaver pelts were used to purchase Susan's engagement ring. Large blankets were fetching a hefty \$36 apiece that year.

Once I recovered from the initial shock of Susan's question, I said to her, "Don't make an offer like that unless you really mean it and understand what's involved in horse ownership. The horse is the cheap part. There are expenses for feed, medical needs, pasture, and tack. And I won't own a horse this time unless we have a trailer."

"I understand all that, and I really mean it," she responded. "You sold Maverick 30 years ago to buy my engagement ring, and I think it is time to replace him."

That was music to my ears. I had never quit riding horses. Over the intervening years I was always available to go on a ride or hunt with someone who had horses but no one to ride with them.

Since we bought Skamp, I have spent lots of time in the saddle riding him on Blue Mountain Recreation Area, which is literally our front yard. And, I have plans to hunt with him this coming fall. I'm glad to be back in the saddle again.

If anyone needs a riding companion, please let me know. I am available for weekend rides when my job doesn't take me out of town. My phone number is in the member directory.

Incidentally, I also gave my wife something unique to celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. It wasn't a horse, since she doesn't ride horses,

nor did it cost as much as a horse and its upkeep.

When we got married 30 years ago, one of the gifts I gave my wife was a Kremetz brooch that consisted of a gold filigree basket with four blue enamel forget-me-nots coming out of it. It was either lost or stolen six years later when we passed through Chicago's O'Hara Airport. I actually think it was stolen. Anyway, I started looking for an identical replacement about a year and a half before our anniversary and found it on eBay. I had the pleasure of pinning it on her when we stopped by the church where we were married thirty years earlier in Colorado Springs. 🐾



Susan, Jack & "Scamp"

.....as a footnote, Jack says he has never been sorry they purchased Scamp. Whoever trained him did a great job on him. All that was left for Jack to do was familiarize him with firearms!

From your Editor: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this Newsletter. Do you have stories for the next issue of Feedbag in December? Do you know any youth who would like to write a piece for the Feedbag? I would welcome any and all submissions! Deadline November 20. Thanks! Myra, 542-7443, jmmumma@montana.com



End of the Trail

by Katie Riley

"The life that is most individual to live is a life on a horse....." That's my quote!

My first trail ride was with Con (Ovincek). I was really excited. The air whipped at my cheeks almost like ants stinging. I was riding my horse, Bonnie.

Bonnie is my horse and riding her is pure bliss. She's only done one thing wrong while I was on her back (well, if you don't count eating (wink-wink)). She went through a smaller place than we had room for and it kinda hurt my ankles. I love Bonnie; she is such a good horse.

Anyway, the trail Con took me on was narrow on a small hill; not mountains. The snow and ice made a trail from the horse shoes. Con chatted as he rode slightly in front of me. I didn't really listen. I just kinda looked around at the river (Bitterroot) we were next to. There were chunks of ice slowly sinking in the water because the sun was beating on it all day. We went through many places where you could barely fit between the trees and the brush.

I watched Bonnie as she moved her lips as if to grab something to eat, but I bet the frost that came with it would chill her mouth. My stomach and my back hurt and screamed with pain. My helmet was hurting my chin and rubbing it raw. On the way back all I could think about was getting into the warm truck. It was a great first trail ride. If I could have done anything to change it, I would have worn a coat!



K8T
Age 14

New Uses for Old Boots

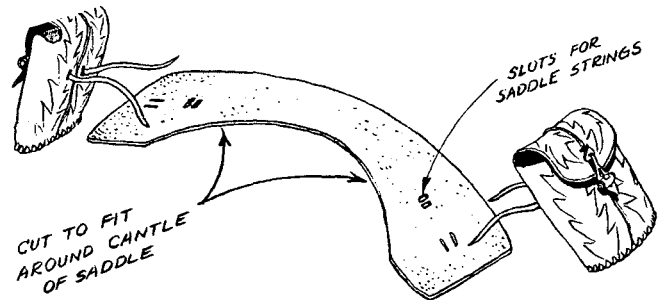
by Myra Mumma

Not sure about you, but I have a lot of old cowboy boots from a day gone by that I hate to send to the thrift store. I notice some old boots with dried flower arrangements in tourist shops in Jackson Hole and Cody, Wyoming, where I grew up. The ones with the scuffed, curled-up toes look best that way.

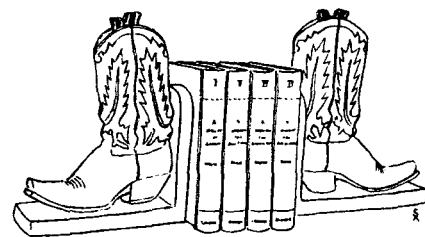
I also noticed a ranch in Eastern Montana that had a boot on the top of each post. I'm not sure what the purpose is, but I figure the rancher wanted to preserve his posts a bit longer?

I was going through some old "Horseman's Scrapbook" magazines put out by Western Horseman in the 60's. (They were \$2.00 back then!) The author, Randy Steffen, has several ideas for using those old boots. You can cut the top off the boot, punch some holes across the bottom, then lace the bottom together with a piece of leather to make an attractive pouch to hold combs, pencils, whatever. You could fancy it up by leaving the scallops on the top of the boot and bending one side up and one down. Some lacing around the scallops would make it look more finished.

You could also make some saddle pockets from a pair of boots by adding a heavy piece of leather to hold each pocket. Or, you could just make the pockets and tie each one onto your saddle using the saddle strings.



A boot, especially with an old spur on, makes a cute lamp. If anyone wants directions, I can sure copy the article for you. Steffen tells how to make a door stop with a boot. Never mind how well it works--it's a great conversation piece! A couple of boots mounted on wood also make some pretty impressive bookends.



I'm sure you have other ideas for using old boots. If you'd like to share any of them, please send them to me! (Sketches by Randy Steffen, "Horseman's Scrapbook Vol. 2, A Western Horseman Book")