



FEED BAG



Editor: Myra Mumma

September 2006

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From the President's Pen.....

We're well into the busy season with many successful rides and projects behind us and some yet to go. Mack & Connie Long organized two trips in July to the North Fork of the Blackfoot for BCH members. On August 4, Paul Evenson and Kirk Sybrandt packed hay and feed into Pretty Prairie for the Forest Service. Paul and the Sybrandt family packed two Special Forces veterans into Pretty Prairie on August 6 and back out on the 10th. Kirk, Liz & Christian are out on their last FW&P trip to Burnt Cabin as I write this. Keith Guschausky and Nancy Stevens just came back and are headed out again. Paul Evenson is taking down the Prairie Reef and Beartop lookout personnel and replacing with new as this is being written. The Bitterroot and Missoula clubs teamed up for two backcountry trips this season. And these are only part of our projects. Most of our project work has actually increased this year.



Gary's Photo by Michele Hutchins

As far as events go, there was a great turnout of members to help with the Blue Mountain Trailhead on National Trails Day, June 3. The Father's Day Steak Ride was successful. Wasn't it great to have some Missoulian coverage of this year's ride?

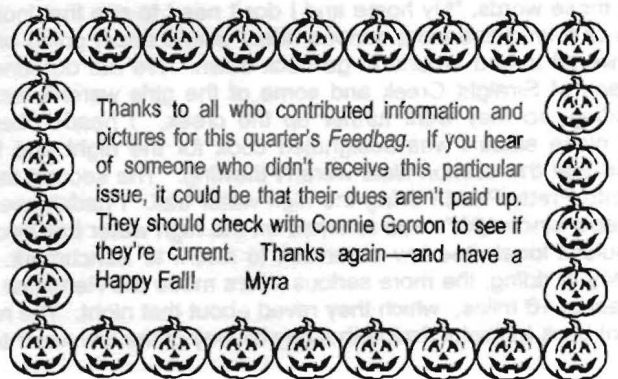
A great big thank you to all of you folks who quietly go about your jobs of organizing, providing food, setting up, calling, packing in and out, sharing wilderness skills, helping out with Forest Service and Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks projects--to name only some of what we do. Keeping the tradition of back country use alive is a big job but we're doing it!

Fall is just around the corner. Frost will soon chase away the bugs and bees and the colors will be much brighter--a great time for trail riding. Have safe and happy rides!

Gary Salisbury

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 9 BCHM State Board Directors Mtg. at the Broken Arrow, Deer Lodge at 10
- Sept. 13 BCH of Missoula Board Meeting at Smoke Elser's Barn at 7:00 p.m.
- Sept. 20 Monthly BCHM Meeting 7:30 FW&P (Election Committee to be Selected)
- Sept. 24 Blue Mountain Ride with Keith Guschausky (Tentative)
- Oct. 18 BCH of Missoula Board Meeting 6:30 FW&P
- Oct. 18 Monthly BCH of Missoula Meeting 7:30 FW&P
- Nov. 15 Monthly BCH of Missoula Meeting 7:30 FW&P (Election of Officers)
- Dec. 9 BCHM State Board Directors Mtg. at Smoke Elser's Barn in Missoula at 10
- Dec. 9 BCH of Missoula Christmas Potluck at Smoke Elser's Barn



Back Country Horsewomen Ride Again!

by Myra Mumma

Every year since about 1988, a group of women has gotten together for a three or four-day back country trip. The size of the group has varied from as few as five to nine women and they range in age from 40-ish to 70-ish. Well, maybe 50-ish to 70-ish. They ride trails in different areas each year. Nancy Stoverud took the women three or four times into the Bob Marshall area. One annual trip was at Monture Creek. For the past several years, the girls have camped in the Pintlar's. This year they decided to go to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Most of the women started conditioning their horses in April, usually at Blue Mountain (where, by the way, the Lolo Hot Shot Fire Crew pulaskied out some wonderful new horse trails) but also at Larry's Creek, the Rattlesnake, and Pattee Canyon. Sue Richert made reservations with the Forest Service for horse camp sites at the Benchmark Campground. There was a last-minute flurry to find weed-free hay because the first cutting was just being put up, but Chuck Miller, Bitterroot BCH, sold us 20 bales. Every year some women have to cancel out of the trip and this year was no exception. Ginny Fay, SuzAnne Miller, Ellin Ifft and Nancy Stoverud (for obvious reasons) had initially thought they could go but had to cancel. The menu plan is really complicated--HA! We're out riding and someone offers to bring the entree for one night, others throw in to help that person. The word spreads about the one night and soon we have a menu for the number of nights we're out. Everyone is responsible for their own breakfasts and lunches.

The week before our trip we only make short, easy rides so our horses will be fairly rested. On July 16, nine women trailered with six trailers to the Benchmark area outside the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The nine included BCH of Missoula members: Joyce Ruana, Lana Hamilton, Holly Young and myself. The other five riders were Sue Richert, Bonnie Doherty, Sue White, Karen Buck and Lana's cousin Marty Hilton, who is a BCH member in the Tacoma area. The plan was to spread out so we wouldn't be a traffic hazard and to meet up in Lincoln for lunch at the city park, which we did, then on to Augusta and the last 32 miles of dust and washboards! We were sure glad to get there to find such a great camping spot with nice horse facilities, and also glad we didn't get run off the road by any outfitters since we'd been warned about those drivers!

Holly and I shared a campsite because we both brought camp kitchens--and the margaritas. The first night was spent setting up the kitchen and our tents. The first day of riding was to Patrol Lookout. The trail winds for three miles up Straight Creek, then three miles of pretty steep country up to the Lookout. We made it past Honeymoon Basin and had about 500 yards to go. What was I thinking? Of course fire lookouts are on top of the world! We could see the rest of the trail up to the summit and I'm sure it looked tougher from below than it actually was. While we were letting the horses blow, my mouth just started moving and out came these words, "My horse and I don't need to see that lookout." Three or four of the more serious riders talked about going on, but soon we all turned around to go back down. We ate our lunch on the bank of Straight Creek and some of the girls weren't ready to quit riding, so they went further up the creek. I headed back to camp alone since I was designated cook for the night and I was worried that the salmon filets weren't thawing. The second day we rode into Pretty Prairie using the high water trail. I hadn't seen the little cabin since 1987. We returned on the high water trail because we couldn't locate the low water trail to return to Benchmark. The third day of riding, the more serious riders made the Renshaw Lake loop, about 16 miles, which they raved about that night. The rest of us went back to Pretty Prairie that day by way of the low water trail.

On Thursday, July 20, we broke camp and gritted our teeth for the 32 miles of dust and washboards back to Augusta. Over breakfast, we counted our blessings that we didn't lose any horses off a cliff, we didn't have any broken bones and no flat tires. Then the talk turned to where we'll go next year. All winter we carry the memories of that trip, good and bad. We exchange pictures for Christmas and the good ones we enlarge to hang on our walls. As for me, I will always remember, until I'm in a nursing home, that solo ride the first day back down Straight Creek to camp. I gave my 15-year old Fox Trotter mare her head as we moved along that beautiful creek. I swear I could see every rock in it--it was that clear. I remember being so proud to be riding such a fine animal and thinking that there could not be a more gorgeous spot on God's earth. 🐾

In Memory of Brendt.....

by Myra Mumma

Brendt Stoverud died on June 30, 2006. Brendt attended Missoula schools and graduated from the University of Montana. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the military. In 2003 he retired from his family's jewelry business. His wife, Nancy, who has served on the Board of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula, have four daughters, Kristin, Karrin, Kathy and Kari, who have families of their own.

Brendt and Nancy are the kind of neighbors and friends that everyone envies. Brendt would not only tell you how to fix your water heater, he would drive over and fix it for you. If you needed advice on horses or tack, he took the time to share his knowledge. If you needed a phone number, he would drop what he was doing to find it for you. Whenever you had problems with your internet provider,

you could get help from Brendt. Brendt was truly a generous, sharing and caring man.

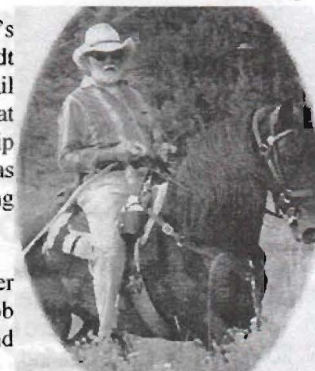


Brendt & Nancy, cooking and talking with Nancy Stevens after a day on the trail to Limestone Pass
.....picture taken by Nancy Stevens

The Stoverud's have always enjoyed the back country with family and friends. Kristin, Karrin and Kari worked in the Bob Marshall on trail crews, as wilderness rangers and Karrin worked for a time as a river ranger. Nancy and Brendt would pack supplies into them periodically after taking Smoke's Ninemile Packing

Clinic and after Brendt took Smoke's advanced course. At one point Brendt questioned why Nancy enjoyed trail riding with women. She told him that women are just fun! It was after the trip with Nancy Stevens above (Keith was sick in bed) that Brendt agreed--going with the girls IS fun.

Brendt passed away at the Sun River trailhead (Benchmark) to the Bob Marshall Wilderness where he and Nancy were packing up for a trip to the Chinese Wall. "The Bob" with its unique rock cliffs and clear creeks draws us all. This "crown jewel" of all wilderness areas is a gift to us, just as Brendt's life was a gift. We miss him..... 🐾



Brent on Taz

2006 Father's Day Steak Ride



Left, Dan Schusted heads out on the ride through the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area for the Father's Day Steak Ride on June 18. Back Country Horsemen of Missoula sponsor this steak ride annually. Right--Dan and Anna Tucker ride alongside each other. Photos were provided by Don Dodge.



This is what Back Country Horsemen of Missoula is all about--sharing trail rides together in the back country on the back of your favorite horse in this beautiful country we live in. Below, a ride for a young cowboy and bottom--who doesn't enjoy a nap after a steak dinner! Both photos courtesy of Michele Hutchins.



Mark Wright, Jenna Wright, George Bingham and Dan Harper--left to right. Photo by Tom Bauer of *The Missoulian*. If you missed the article you can still view it online at <http://www.Missoulian.com>, go to Archives, June 19. Scroll down to "Giddy Up, Dad: Annual Steak Ride Helps Preserve Open Public Lands" by Betsy Cohen.



Wilderness Trip for Special Forces Veteransas told by Kirk Sybrandt



Paul Evenson and Kirk Sybrandt did the hands-on packing to take two deserving special forces veterans, Gary and Dammon, into a Pretty Prairie campsite on August 4. The two veterans got in some fishing in the West Fork of the Sun River. Their military point of contact, Jim Krause, had advised the two to bring MRE's for meals, but in truth, the food was a far cry from military rations. Pearl Cash of the Pearl Bakery and Restaurant cooked for the group so they all ate good! Liz and Kirk took the men to Indian Point and beyond on the 8th where they got a glimpse of the Chinese Wall. While they were riding, Pearl, Bob Brugh, Christian Sybrandt and Paul picked knapweed. The entertainment of the trip was an event that happens to the best of them. Paul let half of the animals loose to graze, then decided, "Aw heck, I'll let the whole bunch graze." That's when Fibber, Paul's horse, decided to take all the horses and mules back to Benchmark. Lyall Stott brought them back up to Pretty Prairie and jokingly told Paul to "Hang onto Fibber." The group packed out on August 8. Upper left picture is of the two veterans. Bottom left is of the Sybrandts and the two veterans. Bottom right picture shows the veterans, Kirk Sybrandt and that's Christian Sybrandt winking at the camera around Paul Evenson. Pictures courtesy the Sybrandt Family. 🐾



North Fork of the Blackfoot River Trips

Mack and Connie Gordon organized two trips for BCH members into the Scapegoat Wilderness on July 18-20 and July 20-22. The purpose of the trips was to cleanup the North Fork of the Blackfoot Trailhead, do general trailwork, learn history of the area, and put packing, riding and camping skills to work. Left, Mark and Jenna



Wright and Pat Culver are cooling off in the North Fork of the Blackfoot River. The temperature was 98 degrees! In the lower picture, Dan and Scott Tuxbury are also getting cool. Pat Culver on Duke--lower right. *Photos are courtesy of Pat Culver.*



Defensive Horsemanship Safety Course

On April 22, Dan and Marge Harper hosted about 20 volunteers, Forest Service employees and Back Country Horsemen in their barn for a safety course required by the U. S. Forest Service, Region 1. This course is mandatory for employees and volunteers who work with stock on the National Forests. The initial course consists of eight hours with a four-hour refresher course once every three years. District Rangers, with assistance of District and Forest Stock Managers, designate instructors in their area who are experienced in stock handling and have the ability to teach the curriculum, be they Forest Service employees, volunteers or Back Country Horsemen. Below, left to right, are some of the organizers of the course: Paul Evenson, Rick Sherman, Smoke Elser, and Mike Chandler. Far right is Keith Guschausky. *These photos were submitted by Don Dodge.*



Summer Potluck



This year's potluck was well-attended even though the weather could have been better. When the lightning started popping, the group moved to the breezeway of the line of stalls at the Equestrian Center. It was probably wise to move. After all, who wants to read in the next day's *Missoulian* that the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula who weren't in the back country got hit by lightning under a tree at the Equestrian Center! Following are recipes of only a couple of popular dishes from the potluck.....

Mark Colyer's Fruit Salad

Grapes, bananas, apples, peaches (really whatever fruit you have).

Walnuts

For variation Mark adds dried fruit, like cranberries and sometimes coconut flakes. The dressing is vanilla yogurt.

Gwen Thibodeau's Pineapple Whip Cake

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix (baked)
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple
- 1 8-oz. carton of Cool Whip
- 1 pkg. vanilla pudding (not instant)
- Coconut flakes

Take cake from oven and immediately pour pineapple with juice over the hot cake, spreading evenly on top. Mix pudding according to directions. When the pudding cools and sets up, spread on top the cake. Sprinkle with coconut. Cover and refrigerate at least overnight--two nights are better.

.....Thanks, Mark and Gwen, for sharing. 🐾

Things NOT to say to your hot, tired farrier:

Can you make his foot smaller?

Are you busy TODAY?

He never does that for me.

You don't mind if I feed the other horses, do you?

Can you shoe him so that he doesn't paw?

Since he's a colt, will you charge me half price?

I left them out in the field because it was such a nice day.

I haven't ever picked up his feet, but he seems real gentle.

My vet said for you to call him and he will tell you how to shoe my horse.

Do those nails hurt him?

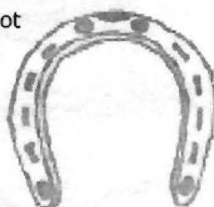
It doesn't look like he's leaning from here.

It's a good thing you're slow today, or he'd have had shoes on when he kicked your truck.

These shoes have been on for only 12 weeks, and they are getting loose.

Does it mean my horses have some sort of deficiency when they chew the paint off your truck like that?

Would you mind trimming my new BLM mustang? 🐾



Bitterroot and Missoula Back Country Horsemen Work Together

As told by Chuck Miller

On July 23, members of both clubs, Randy Kappes, Willis Curdy, Julie Schram, Alan and Christina Waitz and Chuck Miller packed eight retired smokejumpers into Bryan Lake on the Montana/Idaho border.

The bees were out in full force and attacked them and the animals several times. There was a lot of fire activity on the 23rd since that was the first day of the Gash Creek fire. The helicopters and crews coming and going caused some concern about getting the smokejumpers back out.

The trail works its way along Bear Creek which cascades through larch and over rock cliffs and is very difficult, especially at the top. It is one of the most popular trails in the Bitterroot Mountains. Bryan Lake is usually a great place to fish, but the catching wasn't so good this trip.

The smokejumpers spent a week in the area where they cut out the trail and put in waterbars and trail drainage. It took eight pack animals, two less than the trip in, to pack them back out on the 30th. Julie Schram, Randy Kappes, Chris McCabe and Chuck brought them back out. There was some concern that the fire would prevent them from coming back on the Montana side because the Idaho trail is so difficult but they were able to come back down Bear Creek. 🐾

On August 28, Chuck Miller, Gary Salisbury, Mark Wright, Dave Harmon and some Forest Service folks packed into the Great Burn Area to evaluate the horse use of the Leo Lake area. There is concern over heavy horse use in the campsites so both clubs teamed up to give their input to the Forest Service. 🐾

August 2006 *Western Horseman* features the Ninemile Ranger Station. The article is called "The Ninemile Cavvy" by Lee Farren

H.R. 586: Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005

The official title of this bill is: "To preserve the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on public lands, including wilderness areas, national monuments, and other specifically designated areas, administered by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service where there is a historical tradition of such use, and for other purposes."

On May 16, 2006, this bill passed in the House of Representatives by voice vote. A record of each representative's position was not kept. The next meeting of the Senate is Sep 5, 2006. 🐾

Source: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress>

