



# The Feedbag

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOULA

September 2011

## Welcome, New Members:

Angela & Freja Lovato  
Cathy Ream  
Tom & Cherie Russell  
Robert &  
Suzanne Schweitzer  
Ron Zaryczyn  
Jill Ursua

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## *President's Message.....*



Greetings to all! It's hard to believe it's September already. The summer has just flown by! Our Club has been really busy. I'm always amazed at how these major events just come together by all of you hard-working volunteers. You truly are the "cream of the crop" and I'm proud to be a part of this organization.

The Father's Day Steak Ride was very successful with lots of riders who enjoyed themselves. The food was great as usual. Club crews got many projects accomplished at Burnt Cabin this year. They installed a kitchen sink, and buried a new drainfield to the sink, built a rail for the cabin porch, built saddle racks and in their spare time they cleared trails and cleaned waterbars! See page 4 for pictures that will make you wish you'd been there! The Annual Summer Potluck went very well—see page 5 for pictures. A huge thank you to Bill and Ramona Holt for having us. Our Club had a booth at the Western Montana State Fair in August. The 2011 Recreation Rides generated more interest from members than they have for many years. I can't thank you all enough for your time and effort on these annual events and projects. You make this Club what it is. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the hard work and time put in by the various committees all year long, such as the Calling Committee and the Social Committee. You all are the life-blood of this organization.

PLEASE COME to our annual Ice Cream Social and short General Membership meeting on September 21st at the Opportunity Resources Inc. building on Russell Street. Ice cream and toppings will be provided by the Club and desserts are welcomed from the membership. Come to share pictures of the back country trips and rides and to get acquainted with new and old members!

Please note that the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range wire rollup project has been postponed for a week. It's now going to be October 8th. You can meet at 7:00 AM at the River City Grill for breakfast and then go up or you can meet us at the Game Range at 9:00 AM to start work.

Fall is a wonderful time of the year for trail riding. Above all, be safe!

.....*Paul Evenson, President*

**TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More**

## “Bee” Prepared on Your Trail Rides



**“....move away quickly and keep going for at least a quarter of a mile.”**

.....from twoasonehorse-manship.com. Submitted by Sara Wilson.

As we enter Autumn we need to remember that this is the season when bees or wasps are most aggressive and defensive of their nests. Unfortunately bees and wasps are part of life that we can't do much about so we have to respect their presence, do what we can to minimize attacks and know what to do if we are attacked. Firstly, try to stay on well-traveled paths; don't chance veering off into undisturbed areas. In particular, avoid dead trees or logs and keep your eyes open for nests in trees.

However careful you are, if you ride often enough, you will

disturb a nest. If you are with a group it helps to have a plan. Determine beforehand what you will do if your group encounters bees or wasps. What we've learned works best is to have a code word such as "BEES" to be shouted loudly. Upon hearing this word, everyone should be prepared to move away quickly and keep going for at least a quarter of a mile. Most bees/wasps won't travel further than that, but some may. If the attack hits the lead horse, the rest of the group should leave to the rear and that lead horse should continue forward. You can all meet up again at a predetermined rendezvous point. Try to stay on the horse and get it to move away from the site of the attack. If you are bucked off, get away as fast as you can on foot and look for your horse later.

If a horse gets stung severely, the best thing you can do is hose him off with cold water as soon as possible. Check with your vet, but if you can't reach him or her, give the horse a shot of Banamine (about 5 cc's) to calm him down and administer an anti-histamine or a steroid such as Azium. If you know a member in the group is allergic to stings, carry the appropriate medicine as prescribed by your doctor.

Encountering such an incident is not pleasant, but if you keep your wits about you and leave the area quickly, you should be all right and you'll have some "new" material to share with your buddies. Safe Riding!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 10	Day Ride to Ray's Gulch in the Rattlesnake, 11:00, Leader Ken Brown, 207-6067
Sept. 10	Montana BCH Board Meeting, Deer Lodge, 10:00 AM
Sept. 17	Day Ride to Bear Creek in the Bitterroot, 10:00, Leaders Jane Kelly & Diane Tidwell, 370-4363
Sept. 21	BCH of Missoula General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Oct. 5	BCH of Missoula Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Oct. 8	Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range Wire Rollup, 7:00 AM at River City Grill in Bonner or 9:00 AM at the Game Range
Oct. 15-16	Leave No Trace Demo Hunting Camp in the Rattlesnake, 10:00, Ken Brown, 207-6067
Oct. 19	BCH of Missoula General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Oct. 22	Blackfoot Highway Cleanup, Meet at Clearwater Junction, 9:30 AM
Nov. 2	BCH of Missoula Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Nov. 16	BCH of Missoula General Membership Meeting, 7:00 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Dec. 7	BCH of Missoula Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, ORI Meeting Room
Dec. 10	Montana BCH Board Meeting, Elser Barn, 10:00 AM
Dec. 10	Club Christmas Party
Mar. 30, 2012	Montana State Convention, Billings Hotel, Billings, 1:00 PM

**CLUB BOARD MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH; GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

**OFFICERS**

Pres. Paul Evenson	251-2163
Vice-Pres. Ken Brown	207-6067
Sec'y. Jane Kelly	370-4363
Treas. Barbara Koeke	626-4351

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Alan Meyers, 2 Yr.	721-2121
Michael Moore, 2 Yr.	370-7549
Herb Monk, 2 Yr.	549-8756
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Feedbag, Myra Mumma	542-7443
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Issues, Paul Evenson	251-2163
Membership & Website, Sandy Evenson	251-2163
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
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**Classified Ads**

Wanted: Used Youth Saddle to fit a full-size horse.  
Call Mark Wright, 258-6795

For Sale: St. Patrick Hospital Trauma Services offers Troxel equestrian helmets for sale. \$23.00. Contact Marianne Birenbaum at 214-7575 or e-mail her at [airanne@vzw.blackberry.net](mailto:airanne@vzw.blackberry.net)

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**Oh Those Arabs!**

Two BCH of Missoula members lost their Arabian horses this summer. Karen Buck's mare, Shadow, had to be put down because of a spinal tumor that caused her health to spiral downward. After Shadow was euthanized, the vet was walking back to his truck and noticed a horse in the barn. Karen explained that he was Sundance, Shadow's son, and she didn't want him watching his mother die. The vet urged Karen to turn Sundance out so he would know his mother was dead instead of just away. He said Sundance would always be looking for her. Sundance ran circles around Shadow, coming in closer and closer to where Karen stood, then he stood quietly and smelled the mare.



Also, Lana Hamilton lost her Arab gelding named Serafix, pictured left. Lana's daughter, Teresa, bought Serafix when he was six. She had all the money except \$50 which Lana chipped in. In 1981 Teresa and her cousin were killed in a car/train accident in Washington. In the following years Serafix and Lana made many trips to all the surrounding wilderness areas. He was a loaner horse for Teresa's friends, Lana's friends, friends' grandchildren. Anybody and everybody needing a solid mount to ride. Lana rode him in three parades and on Bison Range rides. Lana cared for Serafix in later years by giving him shots and special feed. She'd be found on the coldest winter days attending to his needs. He was 37 when he died. Lana is so grateful for 32 years with Serafix.

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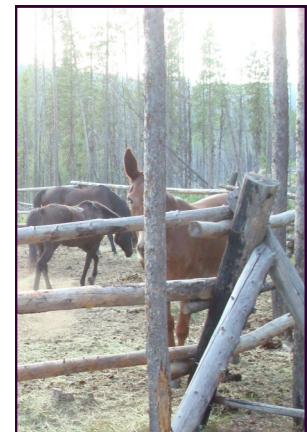
**Burnt Cabin Project, August 11-14, 2001**

The following account of this year's work at Burnt Cabin was provided by Mike Speake and Mike Moore. The weather was perfect and the group got in, got their work finished and got back out before the deer flies got bad. They put a new rail on the new porch, replaced the kitchen cabinets, laid countertop tile and built and buried a new drainfield from the kitchen sink. Now Burnt Cabin has running water. Well, water runs out of the sink but you still have to get the water from the creek! Outside the cabin they rerouted a waterline to the horse corrals and built saddle racks in the hay shed. Dan Tuxbury, Mike Beckel and Mark Colyer cleared trail and cleaned waterbars over Limestone Pass and also all the way back to

Monture Ranger Station. John Favro, Mike Chandler and Mike Moore cleared trail and cleaned waterbars to Hahn Pass. Was the food good? The food was excellent. Dave Murphey brought his homemade chicken enchiladas and Kathy Speake sent her home made spaghetti. Mike said his wife's spaghetti was excellent! Did he have a choice? The trip out was uneventful. Riders got to see a black bear on the way. Pictures were provided to the Club by Dave Murphey.



Above, Mike Speake planning tomorrow's projects from the new porch. Left: Mike Moore and Mike Chandler packing to go clear trail and clean waterbars. Below, Dan Tuxbury, Mike Chandler and John Favro packing up for the return home.



Below, left to right: Mark Colyer, Dave Murphey and Mike Beckel. Note the dirty socks hanging in the upper left!



Above is Mack & Connie Long's mule named Sage. They call her "Mini-Mule." Note how she's hiding behind that tree as if to say, "They need me to pack supplies again, but if I stand real still maybe they won't notice me!"

## Western Montana Fair, August 9-14, 2011

Richard Tamcke and Lana Hamilton at the BCH of Missoula booth. Many other volunteers helped at the booth and their time is very much appreciated. Richard said the booth attracted many interested fair goers but business would have been better had they not had two baby mules in pens opposite the booth!



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## 2011 Summer Potluck August 19, Holt Heritage Museum in Lolo



Left: Nancy Chandler walking back from the potluck line. Below: Mike Chandler is serving steaks to Sandy and Joe Brosious. Austin Colyer is looking on and Mike Hartkorn is in the background.

Pictures submitted by Don Dodge with this comment which says it all:

**“Another fabulous potluck in a very interesting environment full of history.”**



*Kalli Deschamps forgot a spoon at this potluck. It was a wedding gift to her and Ed, so she'd really like to get it back. It is sterling silver with a black handle. Her phone number is 721-3370.*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Region One

Northern Region  
200 East Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59802

File Code: 1830

Date: JUL 25 2011

Paul Evenson  
President  
Back Country Horsemen of Missoula  
P.O. Box 2121  
Missoula, MT 59806

Dear Paul,

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to you and to members of the Back Country Horsemen (BCH) of Missoula who were so instrumental in initiating, setting up and providing such an enjoyable potluck, ride and front country stock camping experience for me and my staff in late June. I know that this was no small undertaking by BCH members. The preparation work, from scoping out trails and a durable LNT camp spot ahead of time, to setting up tents, tarps and high-lines, to providing seasoned and well trained stock, to hands-on packing and defensive horsemanship skills, ensured a safe, enjoyable ride and camping experience for all. I also want to say thanks for providing a great camp cook, Connie Long, who kept us well fed and content, even during the largest deluges from the passing thunderstorms.

I appreciated the stories and experiences shared – both at the potluck and sitting around the campfire, hearing the history and future “vision” for the Back Country Horsemen as well as the successes, and challenges too, of the partnership between BCH and the Forest Service – these kinds of discussions and sharing are essential. I value our partnership and working through concerns together is important to me. I also appreciate the hard work and volunteer efforts that BCH has done over the years to help the agency maintain some magnificent trail systems.

Thank you again for a great two days and a wonderful potluck, and all the work the Missoula and other BCH chapter members did to make this come off so well. I look forward to meeting again.

If you have any questions, or if any concerns or issues arise, please don't hesitate to contact Joni Packard, our Regional Volunteers and Service Program Coordinator, at (406) 329-3187.

Sincerely,

  
LESLIE A. C. WELDON  
Regional Forester

cc: Chip Weber, Dave T Bull, Deborah L Austin, Tim G Love, Elizabeth A Slown, Joni Packard



## A Trip to Big Creek Lake

By Ken Brown

On Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Richard Tamcke, Mike Fisher, Nancy Stoverud, Nancy's daughter, Christine, and Nancy's ten-year old grandson, Soren, and I took a trip into Big Creek Lake to fetch Bob Wiesner. Bob was on assignment at the lake and had been there for a few days.

It is eleven miles to the lake and then another mile and a half to the camp site, a 25 mile round trip day. The Big Creek Lake is located in the Bitterroot, before the town of Victor and the next drainage south of Kootenai Creek.

Richard, Mike and I left Missoula about 7:30 a.m. and were at the trailhead around 8:30 a.m. where we shortly hooked up with the Stoverud gang. Soren had ridden with Richard a few years ago and was looking forward to riding with him again. That ride had been....well, a "full" Richard ride\* but Soren had proven up to the challenge and was back for more. Soren has some grit! We tried to talk to his mom and him about joining the BCHM but they said they lived in the State of Washington. We told them about Klaus and Beate von Stutterheim living in New York and being members. Beate is even on the calling committee and makes calls from New York! Obviously we were trying to recruit good younger members for the eventual survival of the club. It was a hard sell.

For the most part the trail is very well maintained, intermittent with some rock and soil, a pretty tame trail for the rocky Bitterroot Valley. It is a pretty flat trail, up until the climb into the lake, which has 52 (Richard counted them) water bar steps. Most of the trail is in the cover of a mature tree canopy and was quite pleasant on the hot summer day. There are a few bridges, board walks and small streams to cross. All of which were very reasonable. Mostly the trail was clear and open. There are massive Ponderosa pine, Larch and some Cedar trees along the way. Some are well over a hundred feet tall and are probably eight to ten feet in diameter. We did clear a large tree off the trail with a two-man crosscut saw. Richard and Mike were one team and Christine and I

another. However, only one team was effective. Apparently I had not eaten my Wheaties that day.

There are massive isolated rock structures on the valley floor. Some were so large that you could see where people had camped under overhanging ledges. A few were blackened from camp fires.

Toward the lake and where the trail begins to climb, it is open and treeless from the effect of snow avalanches. Here there were more granite rocks and boulder slabs in the trail. My horse, Maverick, did lose his footing on one of the slabs and fell. He tried to scabble to get back on his slippery metal shod feet. He was not successful until I bailed my fat body off him. After we climbed the 52 steps in the final ascent to the lake we had to go into the lake and cross over on a rock spillway before hitting the lake side trail. You needed to be careful to stay to the left of the spillway, as on the right the water roared over the side of the spillway into a cascading crevasse/waterfall. However, if you went too far to the left you would find yourself swimming in the lake – a little dicey. The final mile and a half to the camp site had challenges of rock slabs, high vegetation, muddy bogs, spraying water from the mountain side and erratic drops and step-ups in the trail.

At the last camp site on the lake we found Bob waiting for us, already packed and ready to hit the trail. We tied our horses to a hitching rail to prepare for lunch. Soren had been asking for a while when was lunch. Richard had answered with, "A good packer never eats until the work is done". You can see that Richard lives by that rule. His work must never be done because he has not a pound of fat on him.

While Christine, Nancy and I were at the hitch rail, Christine got hung up on her saddle getting off and was stranded on the side of the horse with both legs dangling in the air. She was calling for help but also laughing uncontrollably. I ducked under the hitch rail, grabbed her legs and lifted her up. She was able to unhook herself. There was a snap hook with a clasp on the side of the cantle that was used to hook a saddle cover on. It had

snapped shut somewhere on her pants. She had no belt on so it must have been a belt loop. The three of us laughed about it. Surprisingly, Nancy said the same thing happened to another lady on the same saddle. We took the snap off the saddle and if you have one on your saddle so should you.

I described an incident on one of the rides in which a young woman's horse was falling/sliding down the side of a snow covered ravine. I saw her throw herself off her horse twice, only to fling back on the horse each time. The third time she managed to get herself clear of the horse before they separated and both rolled over into the snow covered ravine. She later related over lunch that the underside of her bra had gotten caught of the saddle horn as she was trying to throw herself off the horse. She had to finally reach up under her shirt and dislodge herself. Nancy said when she was in a drill team and that she had also got her bra caught of the saddle horn. However it was a strapless bra and it flung off her like a slingshot into the riding area where another male rider kept circling it. Obviously OSHA will have to approve break-away equestrian bras.

When we left the lake we turned the horses loose and the riders walked down the 52 steps. While we were waiting to mount up again Nancy's horse decided to kick out giving me a light glancing blow in the back of the calf of my leg. No harm done! It was a clear sign to get riding, and so we did. The trip back was nice in the shade and coolness of the trees but it seemed like it took forever. Are we almost there? Once we were back we had some cold drinks from the cooler and headed out for home. Everyone did well. Soren did a wonderful job. He told Richard that he was not ready to ride tomorrow, but the day after. Sign the boy up! \*A "full Richard ride" means when he says "wonder where that trail goes" a red flag should go up in your mind. You should definitely save back part of your lunch.....

Just because you're riding a well-marked trail don't mean the fellas who made it knew where they were going.....Texas Bix Bender

## Blue Mountain Recreation Ride, July 23



A great day for a ride! There were many wildflowers out and the day wasn't too warm or windy. Richard Tamcke and Jess Maynard led this day ride. The group rode up through the burn area to the Blue Mountain Lookout. Richard and Jess had cleared the trail of downed logs a couple of days earlier, but the riders still had to negotiate and cut many newly fallen logs. About one hour from the lookout, Jess' gorgeous palomino, Babe, punctured her hock on the branch from one of those downed logs. The wound was bleeding a lot, so he headed back with her. Patty Martin went along to help out. As it happened, when Jess and Babe got to "the saddle," Patty decided to gait her Tennessee Walker back to the trailhead in double time to get the trailer and bring it back for Babe. The other riders made it to the lookout and had a beautiful view from the top. When everyone connected back at the trailhead, Jess called with good news. He had washed Babe's wound out and found it wasn't serious.....which was a relief to the group!

Picture top left: Patty Martin in the foreground followed by Diane Godfrey, Lonnie Milller and Jack Reneau in the very back

Picture bottom right: Jack Reneau on Amber

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## Understanding the Bot Fly

By the Editor

Dr. Angela Langer at Blue Mountain Veterinary advises that the Missoula area doesn't have many bot flies; however, there are pockets of them nearby, such as near Frenchtown and up the Bitterroot. It might be good to know a little about them if you travel much with your horse. About this time of year bot flies become a pest. There are three species that deposit eggs on different body regions: the throat bot prefers to attach cream-colored eggs which hatch and crawl to the mouth. The nose bot attaches dark colored eggs to the whiskers on a horse's lips. The horse bot attaches cream colored eggs to the front legs where they have to be stimulated to hatch by the horse biting or licking these areas.

After the larvae are swallowed, they attach themselves to preferred locations. The horse bot chooses the upper stomach lining. The throat bot prefers the small intestine. The nose bot eventually attaches to the rectum before exiting the horse.

If you've been riding or leading a horse and it panics, most likely a bot fly is darting at the horse. Horses can differentiate between bot flies and other insects. Stomping the front legs, head tossing, "hiding" their muzzles and galloping retreats back to a dark barn can mean harassment by bot flies.

As part of a good internal parasite program always use a product that is effective against bots in the fall after hard frosts. During summer horse bot eggs can be manually removed from the front legs. Fly repellents have little effect on the adult bots as they hover and don't physically contact the horse. There are many web-sites with more information: [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org), [www.wiki.bugwood.org](http://www.wiki.bugwood.org), [www.entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.entnemdept.ifas.ufl.edu)



## Minimum Impact Camping and Stock Use Techniques

1. **Plan ahead and prepare:** Check agency rules and regulations. Check trail conditions. Is your gear in good repair. Tell someone where you are going. Have an emergency plan and share it with your family. Know stock and personal limitations. Good physical condition? Properly shod? Stock familiar with being packed, led or tied behind other animals? Is stock familiar with portable fence, hobbles, pickets or highline? Can they stand quietly all night? Practice all this AT HOME.
2. **Travel and camp on durable surfaces:** Don't cut switchbacks, single file on trail, don't allow stock to run loose on trails, repair and clear trail if needed to avoid detours. Walk stock on trails. When meeting others, whoever can get off the trail easiest should do so. Ask hikers to recognize them as people and ask that they stand downhill if possible. BE COURTEOUS! During breaks tie stock away from the trail and water sources. Scatter manure. Select a campsite at least 200 feet from trails, lake and/or streams if possible. Base campsite on amount and type of use in the area, fragility of vegetation, likelihood of wildlife disturbance and an assessment to previous impacts and your potential to cause or avoid more impact. Allow enough time so that you're not selecting a campsite because of exhaustion, bad weather or lateness of the day. Highlines should be away from camp, trail and water sources. Use bug spray your animals to lessen pawing. Place tents on already hardened areas and the kitchen in the most hardened location. Use a ground cover—scrim. Avoid making more foot trails in existing camps. Use safe bear camping techniques. SEEK PROPER TRAINING AND SKILLS TO REDUCE IMPACT BEFORE THE TRIP!
3. **Dispose of waste properly:** Use RV marine grade toilet paper. Bury human feces or dig cat holes 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water sources, trails and camp. Dig latrines for large groups and use fire ash in the latrines to speed up decomposition. Toilet paper should be buried or packed out. ALL feminine products should be packed out in plastic bags. Strain food particles from cooking and dishwasher and scatter over a wide area away from camp.
4. **Be considerate of others:** Respect private property, others' right to use the trails and assume other users aren't familiar with stock.
5. **Respect wildlife:** Enjoy them at a distance, never feed, store food properly, minimize noise, dispose of waste so it doesn't make animals sick, avoid sensitive habitat and if you have dogs contain them so they don't harass, chase, wound or kill wildlife.
6. **Leave what you find:** Including rocks, plants, bones, flowers, archaeological artifacts. Avoid damaging live trees by pounding nails into trees, cutting live trees or wire, rope or twine around trees because in time it will grow into the tree and strangle it.
7. **Minimize campfire impacts:** Determine if you really need a campfire. Use only dead and down wood. Use an existing ring. Never leave it unattended. Scatter any unused firewood, ashes and charred wood that has been doused with water when breaking camp.

### Minimum Impact Philosophy:

Disguise the sight and sound of your passage, leaving no sign that you were ever there.

*“Using the back country is a privilege.*

*Practice LNT OR lose the privilege.”*

*Bob Hoverson,  
Ninemile Wildlands  
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