



New Members:

- Joann Adams
- Charla Bitmey
- Edwardo & Kara Contreras
- Jan & Katrina Galayda
- Phyllis Geddes
- Shirley Hahn
- John, Stephanie & Brennen Kappes
- Marisol Maddox
- Beverly Poff
- Monica Scullion
- Bill Zader/Liz Heaney

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The Feedbag

March 2013

President’s Message.....

Horses or Mules . . . Sawbucks or Deckers . . . Manties or Panyards . . . Basket Hitch or Barrel Hitch. We have numerous choices to make when riding and



packing in the back country. No doubt, those choices will be influenced to one degree or another by your knowledge, experiences, resources, personal preferences, and a host of other factors. But the bottom line is that the choice is yours to make.

I write this month asking that you make the choice to get involved in the operations and activities of OUR club. I stress “our” because this association is for the enjoyment and education of all its members. From experience, I can confidently and honestly say that you have nothing to lose and much to gain. The old adage goes, “You get out what you put in.” However, my wife, Suzette, and I feel that our input has been rewarded ten-fold with the new-found friendships we have grown and the camaraderie we have experienced, the knowledge we have gained and the skills we have developed, and the opportunities that have presented themselves. These benefits clearly sprouted from our participation in the club’s meetings, committees, social events, projects, leadership, and educational activities.

Keep an eye on the *Feedbag*, your Back Country Horsemen of Missoula Calendar, the Minutes from our meetings, and the website to stay abreast of the diverse means by which you can involve yourself. No doubt, fulfilling our mission takes the hard work and dedication of many members. Approximately 15 sub-committees comprise our 2014 State Convention planning committee alone. It has been said, “Many hands make light work.” Your talents, knowledge, labor and input are needed, and appreciated.

So, cross the bridge or ford the stream . . . the choice is yours. I wholeheartedly recommend wading into the water! ‘Til we visit ‘round the campfire, thanks for listening.

.....*Mike Moore, President*

**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.

2013**DATES****PROJECTS, RIDES, TRAINING, CLINICS****CONTACT**

DATES	PROJECTS, RIDES, TRAINING, CLINICS	CONTACT
March 23	Hwy. 200 Cleanup (Weather Permitting)	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
March 30	Annual Spring Tuneup & Potluck, 10 AM, Basham Indoor Arena	Gary Salisbury, 529-7242
April 13	Log & Water Crossing	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
April 20	Horse Safety Clinic, 9 AM, Harper Arena	Dan Harper, 258-6467
May 11	Mount Jumbo Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
June 1	National Trails Day, Blue Mountain Trailhead	Barb Koepke, 626-4351
June 2	Annual Marshall Canyon Wildflower Ride	Dan & Marjorie Harper, 258-6467
June 23	Annual Steak Ride	
June 27-30	Back Country Work Project	
July 13	Hwy. 200 Cleanup	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
July 20	Tyler Creek Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
July 27	Petty Creek Ride	John Favro, 864-8644
August 16	Annual Summer Picnic & Potluck, Holt Heritage Museum, Lolo	Barb Parker, 544-9480
Sept. 14	Primm Meadows Ride	Richard Tamcke, 258-6621
Sept. 18	Ice Cream Social Preceding General Membership Mtg., 6 PM	
October 12	Wire Rollup & Trails Project, Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range	
October 26	Hwy. 200 Cleanup	Herb & Sue Monk, 549-8756
December 7	Club Christmas Party	

CLUB BOARD MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM; GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS ARE THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM. BOTH ARE HELD AT ORI, OPPORTUNITY RESOURCES, INC. , 2821 SO. RUSSELL ST.

The next Montana State Board meeting will be Friday, April 5th, in Kalispell at the Red Lion Inn at 9:00 AM in conjunction with the State Convention. Details on back cover.

2014 State Convention will be in Missoula, April 3-5. The Committee has already started their planning meetings. If you can help on a Sub-Committee, contact Mark Wright or Connie Long.



Hats off to Freja Lovato who sold about 25 Club calendars in January! Freja eleven years old and is the daughter of Dan and Angela Lovato.

2013 Officers

Mike Moore, President

My family and I joined the club in 2003 at the suggestion of current members Judy Ward and Neva Larson. I served as Secretary in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and have spent a couple of terms on the Board of Directors. I believe I spent the past four or five years as co-chair of the projects committee. I look forward to the challenges and rewards that come with serving as your President.



My wife, Suzette, and I both work at Collection Bureau Services, Inc., where I have been legal counsel for 19 years and Suzette has done data entry for 15 years. We have two wonderful kids – Shanna and Colin – who attend the University of Montana Western in Dillon where Colin is a member of the UMW rodeo team. Shanna is planning a June wedding. We all enjoy horseback riding, camping, rodeos and hunting.

I looked back at the first bio I wrote when I was Secretary. Then, we had five horses. Now we have eight. Still two cats, but have added two dogs. Then, we had two kids in the house. Now, it's just me and Suzette and the cats and dogs. Can't wait for spring to arrive so that I can take some of kid's horses to Dillon! Times they are a changin'.

John Favro, Vice-President

John was voted Vice-President for 2012 and again in for 2013. 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 Friends of Ninemile Ranger Station Boards.

Lori Hughes, Secretary

I have been the club Secretary since April 2012, and enjoy meeting many of the interesting members and learning about the club. I live on a small ranch near Huson with my husband of 35 years, Guy. Since our 3 boys are grown and on their own, we've been bringing animals home. Along with our 5 horses, 2 mules, 4 dogs and a cat, we board horses. I spend as much time on the



back of a horse or training them as I can, spending my winter waiting for spring... We've owned and operated our Missoula business, Allbrands Appliance Service, since 1993.

Dan Harper, Treasurer

I graduated in 1962 from Missoula County High School. After leaving Montana for education and military service, I

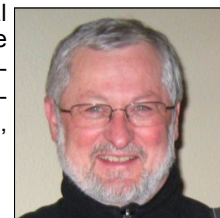
couldn't wait to get back to Montana and my hobbies of back packing, fishing and hunting pheasants and elk. The back packing soon gave way to packing in with horses and mules, thanks to my wife, Marjorie, and to Smoke Elser. Now my favorite activity is saddling up Concho and the mules and packing into 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 as Treasurer for two years and several committees and also 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.

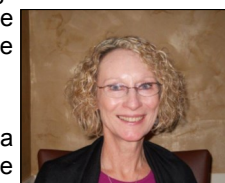
2013 Board of Directors

Ken Brown is on the Board of Directors as Past-President in 2013. He was Club Vice-President in 2011. From 2009-2010, he finished a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Ken was active in the 1980's and was President in 1989. Ken organizes work projects in the back country, day rides and committees for our major social events. Ken is the Director of Specialized Services for Opportunity Resources, Inc.



Jane Kelly

I was on the Board of Directors in 2012 and again this year. I have served on various committees and am presently the Chair for the Registration Committee for the 2014 State Convention.



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 2006-2009 and 2011 and Board Director in 2010, 2011 and 2013. 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 aero space 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 when 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."

Angela Lovato

I grew up in Missoula, graduated from Hellgate in 1990.

I belonged to BCH of Missoula back in 1985 and 1986. Early on I rode with BCHM members, Jim Eichhorn and Tom Wagner. Don Dodge also used to loan us horses.

I am an ICU nurse at Community Medical Center, have been there for 7 years. My husband, Dan, an independent contractor, and I have a daughter Freja, 11 years. We are very involved in 4-H and love being involved with BCH as a Board Director. My deep love and obsession is with horses, and exploring the back-country. I have made some of my most FAVORITE friends on horseback, and enjoy learning from the club. I also enjoy telemark skiing, running and hiking Montana.

Richard Tamcke was elected to the



Club's Board of Directors from 2009 through 2012 and again in 2013. He is very active in BCH Missoula and helps about every committee that is formed for major events. He was also the Club's Recreation Ride Chairman for the past four years and is Co-Chairman of the Projects for 2013. Richard enjoys training horses, skiing, back country camping and teaching horsemanship, trail ride etiquette and packing to 4-H members in the community. Richard and his wife, Diane are wonderful dancers. They are a treat to watch at the Membership Round-up 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.

Jenna Wright

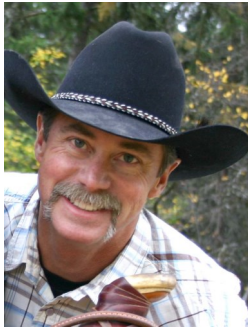
Hello, my name is Jenna Wright and I am excited about serving as a Board Member. I have enjoyed playing an active part in the club for several years and have served as Secretary and Social Chair as well as on several committees (Steak Ride, Expo, State Convention, Membership, Christmas Party, etc.). To finance my "love of horses" I teach Health Enhancement at Frenchtown High School. Anything I can do outdoors such as riding, hunting, fishing, keeps me smiling. My goal as a Board Member over the next two



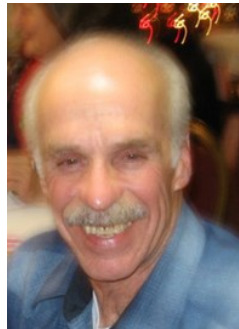
years is to encourage active participation in our Club and to strive to get more "youth" involved as they are our future.

Mark Wright

My name is Mark Wright. I was just elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors and am very excited to be involved. Jenna and I first became members of BCH after taking a packing class in 2004 from Smoke. Since then I have enjoyed serving on many committees (Membership Roundup, Steak Ride, Expo)). I have also helped teach the First Aid/CPR classes and the Crosscut/Chainsaw classes. These courses are important so the Club can keep its members current on the qualifications required by the Forest Service to be able to volunteer on public lands. For me the trail (work) projects have been some of the best of times I have spent with other club members. In the past I have also been a two-year Board member and Vice-President. One of the events I am most proud of is the Packing and Equestrian Skills Expo that BCH of Missoula has put on the last four years. I want to thank all the BCH members that have mentored Jenna and me through our involvement with BCH of Missoula.



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-nine-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.



2013 State Directors

Mike Chandler was 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

Connie Long

My husband, Mack, and I have been members of the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula for 17 years. Before that we belonged to the Cabinet Back Country Horsemen in Libby. I was in the Past President position of the Board of Directors for BCH of Missoula in 2009. In 2007 and 2008 I was Club President, Club Treasurer in 2010 and a State Director for the Club in 2010 and 2011. I was again elected to the Club State Director position for 2013. For BCH of Montana I was Vice Chairman in 2012. I own and operate Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters. My certification as a Leave No Trace (Stock) Master Instruc-

tor has enabled me to teach numerous students over the years. I am a BSN trained Registered Nurse, a license that I keep active with up-to-date current medical practices. Mack & I have three children and two adorable grandsons age 4 and 6. We are both very passionate and active in Wilderness protection and education.



Gary Salisbury was voted to the State Board of Directors to represent our Club for 2013. 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 their annual Spring Tune-up for horses and humans plus potluck.



Barb, A Horse Lady

.....by Ken Brown

Writing about Barb Parker is a bit like writing about Mother Theresa. You have to do her justice or a lot of people who respect and love her will be very upset. Back Country Horsemen of Missoula, Mike Chandler and Company, were holding a springtime packing clinic in Penn Cunningham's indoor arena up Mill Creek. That was the first time I met Barb. Later that spring at the Steak Ride, I noticed Barb having a difficult time trying to mount her black horse, Crystal. The mare was going around and around in circles, not giving Barb a chance to get in the saddle. I went over to help, but Barb said they would just have to figure out how they could do this together. I thought she must be joking, but I also knew she meant business, in a nice way, so I stood back to watch. And, after awhile and after about a two foot grove in the ground, Barb got on her horse and off they went.

Over the years I got to know Barb and enough about Crystal to say that Crystal could be difficult, and Barb can be pleasantly persistent. Crystal was a running quarter horse. Who when tied has a well-perfected track weave as well as a furious high stepping trench digging pawing habit. Not the calmest horse in the pasture. Barb always

admitted that Crystal had a few idiosyncrasies but that the two of them have an understanding. Barb takes care of Crystal and Crystal is basically Barb's eyes on the trail. When a decision is necessary, Barb depends

on Crystal to make them.

On a ride in Glacier Park, it was at a small stream crossing where Barb decided to roll off her horse, landing between several ugly, mean, hard boulders. She also lost her glasses. She just knelt there talking quietly to her horse so Crystal wouldn't move and step on her glasses. Barb can't see well with her glasses, and not much at all without them. Barb ended up asking someone to walk calmly back to where she was kneeling to get her glasses for her.

In "the Bob" she was walking her horse down a steep pass, like the rest of us, when she fell. Her horse stepped down on her hand and planted her hoof and left it in that position. Barb,

once again was cool and asked for help. In the position she was in it would not have taken too much for the horse to have gone right over the top of her. Not good. But once again, Barb quietly talked her horse into standing still.

On the Great Burn trip, better known as the Great Scare trip, Barb noticed her horse wobbling at a tough spot on a cliff. She knew Crystal, and knew she wasn't doing her "track weave". Barb figured out that Crystal had vertigo and was dizzy.

Now Barb couldn't see where she was but she knew if she dismounted she might go over the cliff. So she turned Crystal's head into the hillside. That took care of the vertigo. Barb never even said a word to her trip companions about the problem until well after the trip.

After that trip Barb got a pack horse, yet to be broke, which she trained herself. All this and Barb is not able to drive a vehicle!

Just as the Club has helped Barb, Barb has given to the Club. She has



been on the Board of Directors, Vice-President, President, and on the State Board. She has held almost every committee chair position that there is and currently is Social Chair. Just as Barb and Crystal depended on each other, so do the rest of us Club members. We give to the Club and receive in return meeting a lot of good people from all walks of life. Barb Parker is one of those members.

This article is a reprint, with permission from the author, from The Feedbag, December 1998.

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Back Country Horsemen of Montana State Board Meeting, Missoula, December 8, 2012

After the Secretary and Treasurer's Reports, Vice Chair Connie Long opened a discussion to try to get young people involved in BCH, as they are in the MT Wilderness Assn. She will contact 4-H and FFA organizations. The question of liability came up and Connie will check to make sure 4-H and FFA insurance covers stock use.

The National Director's Report was presented by Chuck Miller and Dave Crawford. The postcard/e-mail from Harris Direct was discussed. They are putting together a nationwide directory with personal stories. Giving personal information is completely voluntary. They also discussed the BCHA newsletter that had a woman on the cover carrying a firearm in her holster. Chuck questioned carrying firearms on USFS work projects, plus the newsletter goes out to groups that have opinions on firearms. He reported that if you carry a weapon, be discreet and know the regulations. You might need a concealed weapon permit. Committee reports followed.

Issues: Fred Fitzpatrick reported on Issues. Send in your comments if you have a stance on closing wolf hunting, mainly collared wolves from Yellowstone NP. MT Attorney General is going to file lawsuits landowners on Tenderfoot Road who gated off roads. BCH of MT hopes the Rocky Mtn. Heritage Act will pass. A petition was passed around for signatures. A bicycle group in Missoula wants Wilderness boundaries moved so they can bike from Monture down to Lake Creek. MWA wants members to write letters to the Editor about the Rocky Mtn. Front and the Jobs and Recreation Act. Another issue that is on-going is water issues with the tribes. This will affect The Bob, Hungry horse Dam, water flow to the Flathead, down to irrigators. Speak up. **Newsletter:** Each chapter coordinator can go online to update to update their own mailing lists using a gmail account. Next newsletter comes out Feb. 28th. **Travel Plans:** Mack Long said Forest Travel Plans are being rewritten. BCH has had some input. **Education:** Paul Evenson passed out materials on several topics.

Unfinished Business: Discussion about giving out e-mail addresses. It is each member's decision; give them the choice. There was another discussion about a USFS Centennial buckle given to the the State BCH and whether or not it could be given to the Regional Forester because of gifting rules for FS personnel.

New Business: BCHM donated \$500 to the Scapegoat Wilderness celebration September 21st. Joni Packard, USFS, is working on enabling clubs to do their own chainsaw certification and also on getting consistent requirements for certification across the Region. Smoke reported on the Mountain Bike/Wilderness problem where trails are narrow. He will attend the Blackfoot Challenge because mountain bikers will attend. A motion was moved and carried at BCH of MT reaffirm support of Tester's bill.

Other Business: Charlie O'Leary congratulated Mack Long on receiving the Arnold Bolle Award for his dedication to the outdoors. Mack was given a standing ovation. Charlie also advised that Dan Harper has been elected to the Montana Wilderness State Council. The Rocky Mountain Front and Tester's bill will be in the forefront and he encouraged membership to MWA. Joni Packard, USFS, reported that volunteer reports and figures show over \$250,000 of work in Region I. She thanked everyone for their hard work. Next Board meeting will be Friday, April 5th, in Kalispell, Red Lion Inn, 9 AM.



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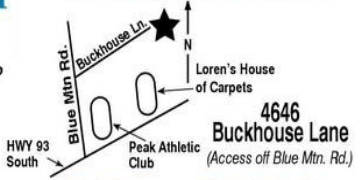
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Back Country Horsemen of Montana
2013 State Convention
& 40th Anniversary Celebration
April 5, 6 and 7, 2013
Red Lion Inn, Kalispell, MT

This year the State Convention is hosted by the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead. This Chapter was the original chapter formed in Columbia Falls in 1973. Friday afternoon schedule is a horse training seminar with Kathy Valentine, Packing demonstrations, Plan a trip in the "Bob", History and artifacts of the "Bob", Maps and navigation, Backcountry first aid, Rope splicing and Dutch oven cooking. Friday evening's social hour is followed by bluegrass music with Roy Wilhelm and friends. Saturday's schedule is: History of BCH, Panel discussion by BCH charter members and Afternoon seminars. Saturday evening is the banquet and keynote speaker, Rick Potts, Live and silent auctions and dancing to country music by Roy Wilhelm and the Ashley Creek Ramblers. The registration form is available at www.bchmt.org.



See us on the web: www.bchmt.org/wp/missoula



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