

New Members:

Joann Adams
Christina Burns
Will & Angela Clark
Edwardo & Kara Contreras
Phyllis & Beverly Geddes
Bert Lindler
Marisol Maddox
Beverly Poff
Monica Scullion
Bill Zader & Liz Heaney

WEBSITE: www.bchmt.org/wp/ Missoula/

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Mack & Connie Long

The Feedbag

September 2013



President's Message......

My favorite line from one of my favorite songs goes something like the following:
Sit tall in the saddle, hold your head up high

Keep your eyes fixed where the trail meets the sky
And live like you ain't afraid to die
And don't be scared, just enjoy your ride

......Chris LeDoux: The Ride

I also like the line from the movie *Shawshank Redemption* (1994) that goes: Get busy living or get busy dying.

Now, if you are worried that this is going to be a gloomy discussion about death, please don't stop reading just yet. These lines hold a lot of meaning and inspiration, at least for me. They come to mind as I look back over the last two months and realize that I have not been on the trail since the annual Steak Ride – back on June 23. In fact, the last time my back pockets touched leather was late July or early August. Suzette and I and our neighbor's high-school aged nephew from Spokane - who loves horses, but does not have one - rode around our pasture for an hour or so. Nice to see him smile. We really enjoyed being able to share that with him.

So, maybe I am simply being selfish as I write this edition of the President's Message as it is really just a pep talk to myself as much as anything else. I have to find, or make, the time to ride. We're all familiar with the old adage, "The best thing for the inside of a man is the outside of a horse." Combine that with another adage professing that "the best thing for a horse is a wet saddle blanket" and you have summed up my thoughts.

I annually attend a very large meeting of collection professionals – mostly from the U.S., but some from around the world. Those folks constantly tell me how much they envy the outdoors and western lifestyle we enjoy here in our back yard. Most of them would love to ride a horse. They all want to experience what we enjoy, and maybe even sometimes take for granted.

So Mike (remember, this is a pep talk to myself), its time to sit leather. And, I hope you all do the same. The weather is a little cooler and Fall is a special time to be outdoors and horseback. My future son-in-law tells me the elk have been bugling in the Big Hole Valley for some time now. Wouldn't that be a treat to hear?

On a side note . . . Although not really a riding event, this is a short reminder about the wire roll-up on October 12 at the Clearwater Game Range. I have it from a direct source that Klaus and Beate von Stutterheim plan to feed the crew again this year. So, get back in the saddle and enjoy the Montana Fall. Better yet, share the experience and your knowledge and wisdom with a youngster 'Til we visit 'round the campfire, thanks for listening.

.....Mike Moore, President

Elections for 2014 Officers, Board of Directors and State Directors will be held in November. President Mike will be naming a Nominating Committee at the October General Membership Meeting. Please call Mike if you can help—370-7549

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Above: Jane Kelly handing Bob Cross the rest of a cookie that Mark Wright gave them. Ah-ha! Some of us wondered what happened to all Jenna's cookies!

Annual Steak Ride Boyd Mountain—Game Range June 23, 2013

The annual steak ride is our Club's only fundraiser, providing enough to fund project work according to our Mission Statement. This year's event drew a crowd and the meal was awesome. Most important of all, there were no horse or human wrecks. This year a KPAX photographer interviewed Gary Salisbury, Mike Chandler and Diane Tidwell about the event. KPAX posted a video (still available) at http://www.kpax.com/news/back-country-horsemen-of-missoula-host-annual-fundraiser. The Steak Ride hasn't always been held at Boyd Mountain, Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. In 1993 the Steak Ride was held at a campsite seven miles up Gold Creek Road. In 1994 and 1996 it was held at the Old Greenough Cattle Ranch. In 1997 the ride and steak dinner were at Ninemile. After 1997 it was held at the Game Range, east and west sides and once on the north side at Nine Mile Prairie. It has been at the Game Range ever since, with the exception of 2001 when the group went to Garnet, MT. Can't you picture how exciting it would be for tourists to watch riders wind through Garnet on the way to the trail?



Annual Summer Potluck August 16, 2013 Holt Heritage Museum, Lolo

This year's potluck was good old-fashioned fun in a museum setting. Members viewed rooms full of cowboy collections, including several celebrity's boots. Exhibits showed how saddles and tack have evolved over time and also an Indian collection—Nez Perce, Salish/Kootenai and Crow. Every year the Holts, (photo top left), our honorary members, open this historical museum to BCH of Missoula for their annual potluck. We can't thank them enough!Photo Collage by John Mumma



A huge thank you to the Holt's. You are such gracious hosts. And thanks to all the members who helped the Social Committee. The side dishes were varied and all beautifully done. We couldn't have pulled this event off without you!

......Barb Parker, Social Committee Chair

Missoula Family Leave No Trace Expo August 25, Ft. Missoula

BCH of Missoula set up their Leave No Trace camp for this event which was planned for the Girl Scouts of Montana, but anyone was welcome. Members at our booth shared LNT knowledge and asked participants two questions as required for their Girl Scout Silver Award project. BCH of Missoula gained community and youth exposure by participating in this event.

.....Photo by Ken Brown



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2013 DATES	PROJECTS, RIDES, TRAINING, CLINICS	CONTACT
Sept. 14	State Board Meeting, Broken Arrow Steak House, 317 Main, Deer Lodge	
Sept. 14	Primm Meadows Ride (SEE NOTE BELOW)	Richard Tamcke, 239-6417
Sept. 18	Ice Cream Social Preceding General Membership Mtg., 6:30 PM. Ice cream provided but please bring toppings. Also, please bring old club photos for the 2014 Calendar to this meeting. (Michele, 529-4272)	
Sept. 19	U of M College of Forestry and Conservation Centennial, Lubrecht, 10-3. Mark Wright, et al. setting up a Stock & Packing unit for a Historic Ranger's Test.	Mark Wright, 531-2455
Sept. 28	Old West Fest at Opportunity Ranch in Frenchtown, 10-4	Ken Bown, 207-6067
October 12	Wire Rollup & Trails Project, Blackfoot Clearwater Game Range, Meet at River City Grill if you want breakfast, 7 AM, Please RSVP if you stay for dinner at von Stutterheim's	Richard Tamcke, 239-6417
October 16	General Membership Meeting, 7, ORI. Also, please bring old club photos for the 2014 Calendar to this meeting. (Michele, 529-4272)	
October 26	Hwy. 200 Cleanup, 9 AM, Meet at the Cow Weigh Station. Need 6-	Herb & Sue Monk, 360-8001
	8 helpers.	
November 20	General Membership Meeting, 7, ORI	
December 7	Club Christmas Party and December State Board Meeting, Guest	
	House Inn on Brooks	

<u>Dear Members: Please help your Scholarship Committee</u> pass the following information along to the youth in our community:

Wilderness Outfitting and Packing Course

The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula is sponsoring two scholarships for Smoke Elser's Wilderness Outfitting and Packing course. Topics include: general horse handling, packing, minimum impact horse use and camping techniques. Winners receive an introduction to safe handling of horses and mules, main injury points, riding equipment, picketing, hobbling, emergency shoeing, and basic back country horse care. The course also teaches packing, cargoing, loading, stringing of stock and light on the land travel techniques. The scholarships are open to students who are 14 to 25 in Missoula or surrounding areas who would like to learn more about safely camping and traveling in the backcountry or wilderness areas with horses and mules. The scholarship award pays for course tuition. University of Montana credit is available to winners at their own expense. The Back Country Horsemen of Missoula will provide a free membership to winners as an opportunity to apply knowledge learned from the course. Classes begin January 26, 2014 at Smoke's place in the Rattlesnake. Class times are Mondays 7-10 PM, Tuesdays 7-10 PM or Thursdays 7-10 PM for 8 weeks.

In addition to offering the Packing Scholarships, the Back Country Horsemen of Missoula has dedicated 39

years of volunteer service by participating in or sponsoring various projects to enhance the back country experience. Projects include: trail maintenance, installing trailhead hitching rails and corrals, conducting horse safety clinics, partnering with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks on wildlife improvement projects, back country bridge repair, packing supplies to remote sites for Forest Service cabin maintenance, packing supplies for the National Smokejumper Association trail program and, lastly, providing opportunities for riding and packing in the back country and wilderness areas.

Eligibility for the scholarship includes: Applicant must be 15-25 years of age, submit the required application form, a letter of recommendation and an essay of 300 words by December 9, 2013. Winners will be contacted by December 16th and press releases will be sent to the media. The winners will receive their awards at the BCH of Missoula Membership Roundup on February 22, 2014. Please go to the website:

http://www.bchmt.org/wp/missoula for more information and for the application.

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Burnt Cabin Work Project June 29, 2013

.....by Diane Tidwell

A beautiful end-of-June Saturday found six of us, Rich-Maynard and Diane Tidwell, at Monture Work Center sanitizing. I set up my tent that night and slept well. preparing to spend a weekend at Burnt Cabin. mission was to open the trails to Limestone and Hahn The ride out was unremarkable, except it got hotter and Passes and clean and sanitize Burnt Cabin for the sum-Leaving the Work Center around noon, our trip was delayed by a few interruptions. First I discovered my red heeler, Sophie, is terrified of deep water, and would not try to swim across it, which caused considerable frustration. After much coaxing and we managed to find log jams she could run across, and one time, John even carried her across. I still owe him for that!

About a half mile from the work center we encountered a huge log blow down blocking the trail, and had to reroute around that. John's horse tripped on a root and spilled him; fortunately he dusted himself off and we continued. Then the bridge at Falls Creek had been washed out too; another dicey crossing for Sophie.

Around four we arrived at the cabin, and after putting up our horses, we concerned ourselves with eating and establishing ourselves for the night. Everything in the kitchen, cupboards, cooking utensils, dishes needed to be washed in hot water, and rinsed with purex, as evidence of mice was everywhere. Sometime in between we got dinner prepared and cleaned up.

Richard and Jess made up their beds on the porch, John pitched a tent, and the Fishers and I chose to sleep on cots in the cabin. So began our night. Around dark, a ruckus on the porch, and here comes Jess with his cot and sleeping bag trying to escape the mosquitoes. What he wasn't aware of was that they were inside, too, just not as many. In addition, the mice were running about. I couldn't tell what happened, but all of a sudden there was a shout, and he leapt up. I wondered if he had had a nightmare, or had been trained to sleep on the edge.

A little later on the opposite side of the room, crunch, grind, crunch, grind...something bigger than a mouse, and a boot went flying through the dark. By Fisher, this time.

The next day the group split up to clear trail to the passes, Jess and Richard to Hahn Pass, and Fishers and John to Limestone. I staved behind and continued with the sanitizing, and later took a little ride to see Monture Falls and beyond. I was stunned by the enduring evidence of the fire that burned in 2000. On and on from ridge to ridge stood bare and blackened remnants of

A few saplings and groves of older trees offered some relief, but the hugeness of the destruction was devastating.

We all got back to the cabin early in the afternoon. The men rode down the trail to clean up a couple of leaners ard Tamke, John Favro, Cherie and Mike Fisher, Jess we had gone around/under, and Cheri and I continued

> hotter, and at the end of the trail we stopped so the men could cut out the logs that had blocked our way going in. It took a some time and effort, and by the time we got to the Station, it was sweltering. We wasted no time in getting out; stopping at Trixi's in Ovando for dinner was not an option. A good trip with good companions!





Top to Bottom:

- John Favro.
- Richard Tamke and less Maynard in the foreground and Mike & Cherie Fisher and John Favro in the
- background. Scenery from Mon-
- ture Creek Mike Fisher doing dishes.

.....Photos by Diane Tidwell





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Jiggy Jogging

....by Connie Basham

It's a real pain in the "vou know what." No guestion it is one of the most annoving problems with a trail horse. For the are generally spoiled horses. One reafirst 20 plus years of riding in my life, I battled this tiring habit with a couple of always feed their weary horses upon Imagine carrying a child on your shoulknow now.

What causes a horse to jiggy thing, the very best way is never to let it get started in the first place. But as with most problems this one is no different than most and is most likely rider-induced just like the rest, or at least a rider didn't curtail it when it got started. To begin with, during early training a horse should never be allowed to start trotting or "jogging" on the trail unless he is asked to. If he/she does try, a good trainer will consistently check the horse and then relax, giving the horse ample opportunity to walk. Letting them know early in training that it is unacceptable to trot or jog without the rider's queuing it to do so will enforce early on that it is not allowed. As with any habit, a well-trained horse learns that it only does what the rider tells it to do. That's the easy solution.

But say you end up with a horse that does. Some of many reasons can be: 1) Not being ridden enough. Lots of riding and constant reinforcement to walk will help. 2) Being allowed to trot at their own will in other trail situations is another no, no. Say the horse that walks fairly slow, or lolly gags or eats along the way, then gets behind. When they are allowed to trot to catch up they learn they can trot anytime they want. Letting them trot up and down hills or inclines is another bad habit. 3) Herd boundness. This is one of the biggest reasons a horse gets "worked up" in groups. Their natural herding instinct tells them they have to be close to the others. If you always ride with the same group of horses and they get separated, they feel lost or threatened. They can also feel insecure about the other horses moving in on their mates. So they get hyperactive. Ride your horses alone when possible. Make them look to you as their security. One of the worst things vou can do is always take their pasture mate with them and never teach them to be alone or with strange horses. 4) Being the leader. Don't always allow your horse to lead. Teach them to follow as well as lead. In large groups it is imposs-

sible to expect that every horse that usu- feel that. Many are very sensitive and ally leads will always be able to lead. So depending on how they've been trained, when they have been taught to always they may think that you are expecting a lead and are suddenly forced to follow, reaction from them as they feel the tensethey are insecure. Horses are creatures ness of habit. 5) Barn sour. These horses Squeezing to a sensitive horse usually son for that are well meaning owners who choice but to be the same.

It's hard for many people to deis worth the effort. I was taught to ride by shape. my father, rest his soul. He taught me as "unlearn" 25 years of riding habits and retrain myself. Here's an example: He Mack truck to pull on them.

food caught) and sit up straight. Well, all could drive him nuts. these things look good, but what happens is that in order to sit straight and tall with with the reins or bit and releasing the nothing to support your back and put pressure as soon as you detect the weight in your stirrups, you can't do so slightest try or give from the horse. It without flexing your muscles. Horses can takes total concentration and immediate

from your flexed muscles. means go or go faster.

my horses. If only I knew then what I arrival home after a trail ride. Why do ders. When they are just little babies and you think they are in such a hurry to get kind of limp little blobs up there, they are home? Never let him trot back. If you fairly easy to carry. But if you've ever jog? First of all, back to that foundation must trot on the trail, trot going away from tried to carry one that's squirming around home. Trotting home just adds to the and scared, they start squeezing around unruliness and a barn sour horse. 6) Too your neck and shoulders to hang on. It is much feed. Do you know that it is actual- hard to keep your balance and carry ly easier for horses to trot than to walk? them. It's no different with a horse. In It takes more strength and stamina to order to totally relax on a horse you really walk steadily up and down hills. When do have to slouch your back, put your they're out of shape it is natural for them weight in the stirrups and sit very limp. to take the easy route. 7) Relax. I think Imagine being a wet noodle. You've this is the primary reason horses get heard the expression, "She sits like a stressed. It emits from you, the rider. All sack of potatoes." That is probably the these other issues may initially cause a best way to sit if you need to relax. Roll horse to start jiggy jogging but when you your pockets under, let the small of your are stressed and tense, they have no back push out like you are trying to suck your belt buckle into your belly button. Just let your feet hang in the stirrups, put fine "relax" for themselves. It is probably no weight on them and let your legs form the hardest thing I have had to learn a slight rounding with the shape of the since I have been raising and training horse's side. The typical western pleashorses. I try to teach other people this ure posture doesn't cut it on a trail ride for and they insist they are relaxed but I can very long. So how do you balance? see that they aren't. But to learn to relax That's how you get those butt muscles in

> Along with sitting relaxed goes best he knew how. So now I have had to relaxing your hands on the reins. The second hardest thing for me to learn has been "feel" as trainers refer to it. Or light taught me that the reins were your total hands. With a horse that is "trained" and control. Legs were there only to kick the I use the term loosely, should come the horse to go. Therefore you should keep opportunity to use a loose rein. A loose the reins gathered up short "in case they rein is one that hangs with a downward try to run off." Since then I've learned arch in the rein, giving no contact on the that if a horse is well-trained in the first bit. This transmits no message to the place, running off is not something they horse's mouth. The bit should be adjustwill do. They are taught to respect you ed properly in his mouth and hang at a and the bit or bridle and it doesn't take a natural angle. Even the lightest tip of the bit in a horse's mount can emit pres-Then there's posture or seat. sure—not only from the bit itself but also How you sit in the saddle and the type of the curb strap. Make sure the curb strap saddle you have makes a huge differ- is adjusted properly. Curb chains will ence in the message you transmit to your often make horses jittery and nervous. horse. Dad taught me to sit TALL in the They are intended to give a little more saddle, push my feet down in the stirrups bite and they hurt when pulled on. If they (only your toe in them so you don't get a are too loose and flop against his lip, it

> > Feel is being able to lightly ask

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reaction. Checking a horse is giving the They're designed for ropers who literally Unfortunately, we've seen horses that horse a little tug on the rein, then re- stand up in them and need more suplease and relax to allow him to react to port. They are too heavy for almost any your request. Check, release, relax. other purpose. They often prevent the Check, release, relax. When he is walk-stirrup leathers from holding their proper usually the rider and not the horse. As ing, make sure you are relaxed in your twist and by counter flexing that twist with most bad habits in horses, look to seat and have no contact on his mouth. around your foot which causes excruci-He will feel your relaxed calmness and ating pain in your knees. Combined training, for anything, it does virtually no will probably settle down himself. Pull- with those awful stirrups, the constant ing back with hard constant pressure pressure on your knees while putting does nothing except make him more weight in your stirrups at a catty wamirritated and hard-mouthed. usually gets him more worked up.

bridles. I have learned that a mouth is ride is when you are going downhill. made and a well-trained horse does not The rest of the time, you don't need to need a big heavy bit. A not-trained for trotting and you don't need to for horse can't handle one. So bigger bits walking. If you're an endurance rider, don't mean added control or insurance. that's probably a totally different story, Although I am in love with those gorgeous bits, it takes a super well-trained jogging is. horse and rider to be able to use one. A good horse should work well in a light jogging even with all these practices in weight bit, as well as any. Don't be misled into thinking that a hackamore is less severe than a bit. In most cases a mechanical hackamore is much worse than a bit. They are designed to pinch and put pressure on the very soft, tender, thin skin on the sides of the face and the bones underneath. They can forward. When he is walking nicely and This comes from Sara Wilson: "Best of cut off the horse's airway for one thing. And most of the hackamores I've seen heading back in the right direction rather people use are never adjusted to the than making a deliberate turnaround. proper height on the horse's nose anyway. These can be just as annoying to direction. Stay calm! As long as he is a horse as a curb chain. Hackamores quiet and walking, keep going. also give no lateral control whatsoever. If you must use a hackamore, a bosal is probably a better choice. But a horse must be well trained to give and respect a bridle in general in order to respond change. Go farther away the other di- PM. well in a bosal. bosal. It's all in your hands.

As for your saddle, obviously if the saddle doesn't fit the horse it can make him constantly uncomfortable. Every horse is different. But if it doesn't riders that are willing to help you work fit you, you can make him uncomfortable too. Saddles that don't have enough seat tend to make a person sit he learns from this is that if he irritates more erect and straight up and down with his legs. This projects the rider straight down rather than slightly forward, then bent and down at the knee, you get mad, you get more stressed as if they were sitting in a chair. Again, and he'll never calm down. If you can't this causes the rider to flex his/her muscles and emit tenseness.

Get rid of those big heavy stirrups. They are awful for many reasons.

Jerking pus angle all day can be uncomfortable. Youch! The only time you should need A quick word about bits and to put weight in your stirrups on a trail Gloria Curdy submitted this from Shane but you probably don't know what jiggy

If your horse insists on jiggy place, stop him the instant he starts. Back him up several paces (without interfering with other riders). Make him stand a couple of moments. Then turn him around and walk the other way. He will probably be confused and walk very slowly, hesitating. But keep him moving if at all possible, make a small loop This gives him no hint that you changed instant he jigs, do it again. Each time make him back further. It's harder for them to back up, so a forward motion, even at a walk, would be a welcome Bit, hackamore or rection each time. Remember: be limp! It will take a lot of time and patience to break this old habit. It may be best to practice these maneuvers on a familiar trail or at least a flatter spot and with with your horse. Avoid at all costs getting off and leading your horse. What you enough, he won't have to carry you. After all, isn't riding what it's all about?

> Another rule of thumb is once deal with the situation in a calm, cool manner, you'd better make a choice. Maybe you just shouldn't ride that horse in big groups or you should get another been ill, taking treatment and in and out of horse altogether.

we've raised and trained, who never jiggy jogged, become jiggy joggers. It confirms my theory that this bad habit is vourself first. Whenever a horse is in good to teach the horse without also training the rider.

.....Reprinted with Connie's Permission

Club Member News

Clouse (long time member) Facebook: A great man died this morning July 5, 2013 at 10:55 am. My father, Ferris E. Clouse. He was 89. His name, Ferris, means iron and he was tough as nails. He also had an amazingly gentle and generous side. He died with his family around him and me singing Montana on My Mind. It was his favorite song that I wrote. He leaves behind an amazing wife, my mother Anna Marie, eight children, numerous grand children and great-grand children. He touched many lives and I owe him everything I am. God Speed my most precious biece of iron!

America by Horseback" is broadcast weekly on RFD-TV. It is hosted by Tom Seay, outdoorsman, and Del Shields who is a cowboy singer, songwriter and poet. The program features scenic trails throughout America along with locations, facilities, history, other activities and amenities. Catch it or record it Tuesdays at 2:30 PM, Wednesdays 12:30 AM, Fridays, 10:30 PM or Sundays at 10:00

From Michele Hutchins: We need your old photos for the 2014 calendar. I prefer them on a CD or e-mailed if possible. Interested especially in photos from different seasons of the year. Please bring your old photos to the September General Membership Meeting, September 18th. 529-4272.

From the BCH Board: The door prizes for our 2013 Christmas Party and 2014 Membership Roundup will be handmade items from Club members. Please get yours started now.....

To All Members: Several members have hospitals. Please remember them in kind thoughts and prayers.

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Youth in the Wilderness: A Collaborative Project

.....By Mack & Connie Long

Backcountry Horsemen of Montana along with Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters teamed up with the US Forest Service to introduce several High School age students to the Wilderness, horses, packing and camping. Twelve students were selected from western Montana schools by the Forest Service to participate. Interested students were required to submit a letter or video of why they wanted to participate in this Wilderness adventure. One on one interviews were then conducted by Steve Archibald of the Carhartt Wilderness Institute to make the final selection. In order to stay within Party Size limits, the twelve students were formed into two groups of six and each group had a four-day stay in the Wilderness, with a potluck and horse safety class the evening before the ride in.

This project came about in an effort to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act which will be in September of 2014. Connie Long and Smoke Elser (BCH Missoula) approached the US Forest Service last February with the idea to get youth in the Wilderness and introduce them to the values and benefits that Wilderness provides and protects. Joni Packard, USFS Region I Volunteer Coordinator, and Regional Forester Faye Krueger supported the idea and it grew from there. It was decided early on that sharing the thoughts, views and perspectives of the youth, as they spent time in a Wilderness setting, with other youth around the country would be a priceless benefit of this project. The US Forest Service contracted a film crew to capture the Wilderness through the eyes of the twelve young participants. In the coming months a film, along with several short versions, will be produced for TV and social media to reach other students across the country.

Over the two-week period, the youth were interviewed, photographed and videoed as they rode horses and mules the seven miles in and out of camp and did camp chores such as setting up tents, cutting firewood with a crosscut and getting water. They were taken on a day hike to Parker Lake where they fished, swam and relaxed. They were also taken on a day ride to the top of Red Mountain where they had a breathtaking view of the Scapegoat Wilderness at over 9000 feet.

A special thanks goes to the Lincoln Ranger District for their work to make this happen. Several special guests took time from their busy schedules to ride in and spend some quality time around the campfire with the group. BCH Montana volunteers did a stellar job toward this accomplishment. Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters (Connie and Mack Long) provided the stock, camp, food, guiding. This was truly a collaborative effort that will foster future advocates for Wilderness.

Below: Left, students' hike to Parker Mountain, led by Mack. Right: Student On Red Mountain. Photos by Mark Himmel

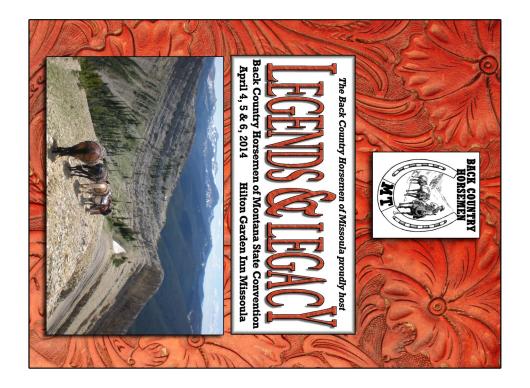


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Back Country Horsemen of Missoula P. O. Box 2121 Missoula, MT 59806



.....Flyer By Michele Hutchins