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Thank You, Bill and Ramona Holt!

The Feedbag

September 2014

President's Message.....



I have long extolled the benefits of membership in our club. My conviction was further deepened as I reflected on a recent pack trip into Blodgett Canyon just west of Hamilton. I am amazed at how many BCH of Missoula members had some connection to that trip. Suzette and I met all of these people through the club and are honored to consider each a friend. Here's my story.

Suzette and I had been discussing this trip with Mike Speake for a couple of years. We finally decided this was the year. As it turned out, Suzette was not able to go.

For this trip I rode a nice buckskin by the name of "Badger" that we had purchased from Larry Henderson. He's a good one, Larry. Thanks. For pack stock, I used my horse, Griz. I was able to ride him a number of times and eventually purchase him with the help of Gary Salisbury. Gary's neighbor's owned him but needed to sell Griz. By the way, Gary trained this horse as a colt and he's a kind, steady fellow. Thanks, Gary. On top of Griz sat a decker pack saddle that we purchased from Bark Koepke. Barb, that saddle fits Griz like a glove. Thanks. Paul Evenson refurbished the leathers on the saddle for us, and it looks great. Thanks, Paul. We purchased the panniers hanging from that saddle through Mike Speake a couple of years ago. He was helping his neighbor sell them. The pack grill I carried is kept inside a sleeve made for me by Mike Beckel. Nice job, Mike. My duffel was carried in two stuff sacks that were USFS surplus items that Smoke had acquired. We came by them years ago when Smoke was offloading some items to club members. Thanks, Smoke. Those stuff sacks have come in handy. Inside the stuff sacks were a very lightweight and compact sleeping bag and inflatable pad. I had acquired these last spring at the suggestion of Bob and Vicki Doty while Suzette and I were planning a Memorial Day weekend pack trip with them. They are convenient and work well. Thanks for the tip, Bob and Vicki. Finally, I carried the knowledge gained from the club's educational opportunities and the experience from past trips with many club members. Thanks, Mike, for the great trip, and thanks to all who were in some way on that trip with me.

There are many reasons we belong to and support this organization. It takes the efforts of many members for the club to survive and to grow, and to fulfill the mission statement. Soon we will be electing new officers and directors. We will also be filling committee chairs. If approached by the Nominating Committee, please consider taking part in the leadership of the club. If you have an interest, please speak up! This will be my last term as President. I look forward to moving into the role of Past-President and assisting our incoming President. 'Til we visit 'round the campfire, thanks for listening.

.....**Mike Moore, President**

PO Box 2121 - Missoula, Montana - 59806



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

The Great Burn: Keep It Wild

By Dan Harper

Where can you spend a week on horseback, encounter no one, enjoy the shade of cedars and firs and sleep under a carpet of stars? As Dean Hoistad, Randy Kappes and I found out, that place is the Great Burn, west of Alberton.

Our trip began July 30. We left I-90 at the Fish Creek exit, turned up the West Fork of Fish Creek and passed the Hole in the Wall Lodge on the way to Clearwater Crossing. After concluding our drive of 20 miles on a good gravel road, we saddled up three riding horses and six pack animals. We rode up the West Fork trail five miles, turned left up Indian Creek. We were amazed by cedar trees so big around that a 30-foot lead rope would not be nearly long enough to tie your horse to one.

Our boots were polished by the luxurious growth of huckleberry and thimbleberry bushes. Small stream crossings were frequent—not surprising in this inland temperate rain forest. The forest opened into a meadow where tall grass and flowers obscured the trail as we approached the headwall. Waterfalls, a snowfield, and rocky ridges were our prize on arrival.

As we climbed the switchbacks on the steep trail, Juneberry, alders, and alpine spirea were as high as the backs of our horses on the steep switchbacks. The trail leveled as we approached Mud Lake. We found our campsite (previously cleaned up by the BCH of Missoula) in a meadow encircled by bear grass.



Dean Hoistad and Randy Kappes starting up the headwall of the Middle Fork of Indian Creek.

The hike to Upper Cedar Log Lake was short but steep. We found an abundance of flowers, frogs and fish. On a day ride on the State Line Trail, my young mule turned twice on a cliff edge to study the terrain; something that I have never seen a horse do.



Horses grazing at Mud Lake.

Each night the stars seemed closer than the problems of the world. The dying embers of the fire helped focus the discussion on the values and rewards of Wilderness along with a debate on the merits of the Decker Diamond.

On day four, we packed back down Indian Creek five miles to the West Fork Trail and turned upstream to Foley Basin. The only people we saw on the trip were two Good Samaritan friends on a day ride to bring us cold beer.



Randy Kappes checks out the scenery on the Montana-Idaho State Line Trail in the Great Burn.

The Foley Basin camp provided good water and grass, but approaching darkness spurred rapid rigging of high lines, tent and kitchen. The trail from Foley Basin to Lower Siamese Lake is rough and steep, but doable. It leads to a beautiful basin with towering walls plastered with thick green vegetation highlighted by jutting rocks, waterfalls and patches of snow.

On the last day Dean Hoistad gave a lesson on a quick and tasty breakfast: a freeze-dried scrambled egg breakfast with hot water added to the package eaten right from the bag with a long-handled spoon. Quick and easy start to our last day in the Great Burn.

Speak Up For the Great Burn

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is considering carving three snowmobile special management areas out of the Great Burn recommended wilderness along the Montana-Idaho Divide. Please urge the Forest to keep the Great Burn wild.

Comments concerning the proposed action provided in this notice have been extended to November 14, 2014. The agency expects to release a draft revised forest plan and draft EIS for formal comment by June 2015 and a final EIS and draft record of decision by June, 2016. The link to an online form for comments is:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=44089> Or comments can be mailed to: Forest Plan Revision, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, 903 3rd St., Kamiah, ID 83536. Include your favorite story about the Great Burn in your comments and consider putting the following thoughts in your own words:

- Maintain the 40-year legacy of Recommended Wilderness in the Great Burn by selecting Proposed Action Option A for the Hoodoo (Great Burn) Roadless Area and adding the Bighorn Weitas Roadless Area to Recommended Wilderness status.
- Only Option A (full recommended wilderness) for the Hoodoo Roadless Area guarantees traditional quiet recreation opportunities, critical winter habitat for sensitive species like mountain goats and wolverines and connectivity for grizzly bears and other species between the Great Burn and the Cabinet-Yaak and Crown of the Continent ecosystems.
- Eliminate Option B which creates a motorized recreation management nightmare for the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo National Forests by carving unenforceable boundaries in Recommended Wilderness.

Missoula July General Membership Meeting July 16, 2014 Equestrian Park



This meeting was held at the Equestrian Park to discuss plans to construct and upgrade improvements to the Park. It was held along with a potluck dinner. Far Left: Christina Burns, our Secretary, and Tyler Proops visiting with Barbara Koepke. Left: Richard Tamcke, Gloria and Willis Curdy, Earl Tidball and Marjorie Harper.

....photos submitted by Don Dodge

2014 Steak Ride July 22nd Clearwater Game Range



This year's Steak Ride was well attended. Several small groups of riders took different routes this year. They returned to one of Mark Colyer's great steak dinners with all the sides one could wish for. Desserts were provided by members.

.....photos submitted by Don Dodge

The Proposed Youth Program

The Flathead Chapter introduced a resolution at the last board meeting to amend the original Youth Program. This amendment would do basically two things: 1) put a line item in the state budget for youth, using part of the current education budget, not adding to it, and 2) the State Board would form a committee that collects education that's going on around the state, i.e., college classes, so all can benefit and not start anew. In the discussion that followed this resolution, the following comments were made: Parental guidance can plant the seed for love of BCH and the outdoors. This proposal is a great place to start, but we need to start within our own families. Following are two stories of BCH families who "planted the seed for love of the outdoors."

Bailey Woodin: This is my horse Annie. She is 25 years old and has PPID or Cushings Disease. We rescued her on May 31, 2013 and she was my horse project in 4-H. We had a good show and we got blue ribbons. I worked very hard with her this year and it was a lot of fun. It really paid off. We won the class in Showmanship and Western Horsemanship and got blue ribbons in bareback equitation and Novice English Equitation. She is the perfect little horse for me and she is my best friend. Submitted by Lee and Candace Torrens, Bailey's grandparents.



Carter Nielsen: All of my grandparents and my parents have taken me packing into the back country for fishing and hunting. This summer was my first for packing into the back country alone. But I took my cousin, Clint, and my "roomie" from University of Wyoming to teach them how to pack. I started riding a horse in front of my dad when I was six months old. I couldn't do that when I got bigger, so my Grampa Gary "sold" me Ligaro for \$1. When Ligaro couldn't keep up in the mountains anymore, my dad let me have a black Fox Trotter that Grampa John and Gramma Myra had given him. I spend most of my weekends in the Absaroka Mountains west of Cody, Wyoming. It truly is "God's country." Every trip opened my eyes to just how beautiful this way of life really is. This summer has meant so much to me and I hope I can get out as often next summer.



Draft Minutes of the April 4, 2014, Pre-Convention State Board Meeting Missoula, MT

The minutes for the December meeting were approved. Sandy Taylor, Treasurer, presented the 2013 year-end figures and the 2014 projected budget showing a deficit of \$3,232. Rich Carl is working on getting 501c3 status for the state organization. The national directors reported Jim McGarvey, BCHA Chairman, was attending the convention. Dave Crawford was working on the volunteer hours report and not all chapters had reported their hours. A motion was made to use the BCHA form for reporting hours. The motion was tabled until the Sunday meeting. There was a meeting later in the day to go over how to fill out the volunteer forms. Fred Fitzpatrick, Issues Chair, reported an Idaho chapter has contracted with the Boy Scouts to work on the horsemanship merit badge. The Blackfoot travel plan is out with the final decision in August. GPS maps are available for download to smart phones. The Hi-Line Chapter has not been to any meetings recently except by telephone. Charley O'Leary wanted more content for the state newsletter. Dan Marsh requested that chapters update the information on the web pages. A new movie called "Untrammeled" was a joint effort between BCHM and the Forest Service. Scott Kisser got donations for 800 numbers for the conference calls from CenturyLink and a private donor. Selway-Pintler Chapter is holding the 2015 convention in Hamilton. The 2016 convention will be held by the East Slope chapter. Resolutions will be voted on at the convention. Nominations for new officers and directors were: Connie Long for Chairman, Brad Pollman for Vice Chairman, Rich Carl for Treasurer, Chuck Miller National Director, and John Chepulis as Alternate. Joni Packard of the USFS said the Challenge Cost Share and Volunteer agreement can be used in tandem. A pool was created at the national level for Workman's Comp so the districts don't have to pay out of their trail budget. The Utah BCH issued a challenge to BCHM to provide a \$1500 donation to the BCHA for a fund raising video. A motion was made and tabled to accept the challenge. An audit committee was formed to go over the books and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of the 2014 State Convention, April 5-6, Day 1

Meeting was called to order and the flag was presented by the local FFA. Missoula presented a slide show of their chapter. Mark Himmel, outgoing Chair, was presented an embroidered vest for his service. Sandy reported a membership of 1,115 down 32 from last year. The Flathead and Missoula Chapters hold the most members. The Wyoming resolution to have divided National Board Meeting was discussed and a vote was taken against the resolution. The National Directors will pass this along at their national meeting. Dave Crawford said three chapters had still not provided him their volunteer hours. The video "Untrammeled" was shown as part of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The proposed resolution for funding a youth program was passed. The Beartooth Resolution presented by John Simmons about limited entry uniform signing was passed. Wild Horse Plains presented a video on the rehabilitation of Big Hole Peak Lookout. The Nine Mile Pack String gave a demonstration. Lee Bowman of the MT Wilderness Association presented and thanked the BCH for all of their work. Fria Lovato provided a prospective as a youth going into the Bob Marshall WA last year. Jim McGarvey gave a presentation on what BCH is about. Senator Walsh was unable to attend but made a video thanking BCH for their work. A video "How About Them Cowgirls" was presented.

Minutes of the 2014 State Convention, April 5-6, Day 2

Casey Burns of the Nine Mile Ranger District presented a slide show. Sandy Taylor treasurer said the 50/50 brought in \$773, the live auction brought in \$2,315, buckles \$220, and canvas bags \$56. Audit Committee reported everything was good. Joni Packard thanked Mark and the BCH for their work and said a new filming project called "Urban America Outdoors" is in the works. The National Directors Chuck Miller and Alt. John Chepulis were voted on and approved. The photo contest winners were announced with the people's choice going to Cindy Betlach of Cabinet. Kathy Hundley presented a slide show for next year's convention in Hamilton. Rick Potts presented a \$700 check to support the budget item for youth education.

Draft Minutes of the April 6, Post-Convention State Board Meeting

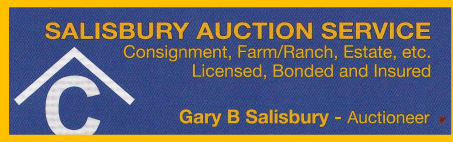
Bills were presented and paid and minutes approved. The Volunteer Hours Report motion was passed to use the BCHA form due on October 1 to match the FS deadline. A page will be put on the web site for chapters to enter the summary information. The Utah challenge to give \$1,500 to BCHA was discussed and the motion was carried. Three Rivers said they would host the convention in 2017. The new Chair Connie Long, Vice Chair Brad Pollman, and Treasurer Rich Carl were voted in by acclamation. Nancy Pollman agreed to be the secretary for another year. There will be no May board meeting, the next will be September 20 at the Broken Arrow in Deer Lodge, December 6th in Missoula at the Quality Inn, and March 27, 2015 in Hamilton at the Bitterroot River Inn. An email will be sent to the directors concerning HR1526 and a vote will be taken on our position. Charlie O'Leary asked about the Recreation Trails Program and its future.

Editor's Note: All Board meetings are open to members and minutes from any Board meeting are provided by Secretary Nancy Pollman.

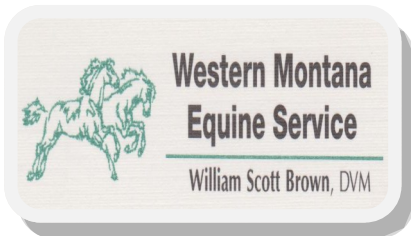


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Pictures from BCH of Missoula's Past

.....submitted by Gloria Curdy

Back Country Horsemen of Missoula received an award during the 1990 BCH Convention. The Forest Service award was for outstanding trail maintenance and wilderness cabin maintenance. Pictured left to right: Pat Davis, Trail Committee Chair (now deceased), Gloria Curdy, BCH of Missoula President, John Mumma, Forest Service and Ron Hoff, Issues Chair.



Editor's Note.....In 1990, Gloria Curdy was elected President of BCH of Missoula. In her first President's Message she thanked outgoing President Mike Chandler and she set out her goals for the year: emphasis on family involvement, more weekend pack trips, promote the club by advertising, prepare a budget and get more new members actively involved. And of course the Club had to host a convention that year. For all these grandiose plans, she asked for everyone's help and advice! And also to wish her luck!

1979 University of Montana Homecoming Parade "People of the Past" Theme

BCH of Missoula members: Butch Marvin as Jim Bridger, Nick Marvin as Poncho Villa, Gloria Marvin (Curdy) as Belle Starr

Connie Rice in the lead.



Upcoming Rides, Projects, Clinics, Events

- | | | |
|----------|--|-----------------------------|
| Sept. 13 | Primm Meadows Ride | Richard Tamcke,
258-6621 |
| Sept. 17 | Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM (Precedes General Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM) Please bring a topping other than chocolate and caramel. Gary Salisbury will give a program on fitting and cleaning tack. | |
| Sept. 20 | Stuart Peak Ride & Trail Clearing, 10:00 AM | Bob Wiesner, 240-3296 |
| | Opportunity's Ranch Old West Autumn Fest, Frenchtown. Volunteers needed. | Ken Brown, 207-6067 |
| Sept. 27 | <i>Note: Date change from Oct. 11.</i> Wire Rollup, Clearwater Game Range, 9:00 AM
Meet for breakfast at River City Grill in Bonner. Lunch and great dinner provided. | Richard Tamcke,
258-6621 |
| Oct. 18 | Blue Point Ride, Rattlesnake, 10:00 AM | Bob Wiesner, 240-3296 |
| Dec. 6 | Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, State Board Meeting, 10:00 AM, Guest House Inn | |

Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area

Wire Rollup (Sept. 27th)

(Please note date change from October 11 to September 27.)

BCH of Missoula holds several events each year at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area, or the Game Range, as the locals call it. This WMA is the largest property administered by the MT Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and is home to many wildlife species. MT FW&P purchased the Boyd Ranch in 1948.

On September 27th Richard Tamcke will lead a wire rollup project to clean up old rusty barbed wire at the Game Range. His cell phone number is 239-6417. Some members will meet for breakfast at the River City Grill in Bonner. Lunch and fantastic dinner will be provided.

THANKS to all who submitted stories, pictures and advice for this newsletter. The next issue will come out the first week in December, so please save your stories and pictures for that issue. Myra, Editor,
jmmumma@montana.com or
542-7443

OFFICERS

Pres. Mike Moore	370-7549
Vice-Pres. Barb Parker	544-9480
Sec'y. Christina Burns	(206) 229-0897
Treas. Dan Harper	258-6467

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Judy Ward, 2 Yr.	493-0290
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Mark Wright, 1 Yr.	258-6795
Ken Brown, Past Pres.	207-6067

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Mike Chandler	549-7639
Connie Long	240-2722
Gary Salisbury, Alt.	273-6967

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Feedbag, Myra Mumma	542-7443
Issues, Interim, Smoke Elser	549-2820
Membership, Interim, Dan Harper	258-6467
Nominating Committee	Vacant
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Projects, Richard Tamcke	239-6417
Mike Fisher	
Jess Maynard	
Publicity	Vacant
Recreation Rides, Gary Salisbury	273-6967
Social, Barbara Parker	544-9480
Caroline Bauer	
Suzette Moore	
Sponsors	Vacant
Website	Vacant

THANK YOU, Bill and Ramona, for hosting our Club annual August potluck once again at your fascinating Holt Heritage Museum. BCH of Missoula is so fortunate to have you as honorary members!





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

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.